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# THE INDEPENDENT

Thursday 30 April 1998 45p (IR 50p) No 3,598

## Today's news

### US frees death plot Britons

TWO Britons jailed for their part in a plot to murder a US district attorney have been freed. Susan Hagan and Sally-Anne Croft were sentenced to five years in 1995 for conspiracy to murder Charles Turner, after being extradited from Britain. They were members of the Bhagwan Rajneesh commune in Oregon at the time of the killing in 1985. US lawyers last night said Hagan, 50, an aromatherapist from Bedford, Hertfordshire, and Sally-Anne Croft, 47, a chartered accountant from Totnes, Devon, had both been released from prison.

### Mardi Gra: brothers held

TWO BROTHERS in their 20s were being questioned by police last night in connection with the Mardi Gra bombings in the London area. The arrests followed a huge police surveillance operation. The men face allegations of demanding money with menaces, explosive offences and using firearms. Page 2

### Swimmer's denial

FRIPLE Olympic gold medal winner Michelle De Bruin yesterday used a press conference in Dublin to flatly reject suggestions from the international swimming body FINA that she tampered with a urine sample when a dope test was taken in January this year. The allegations accuse her of taking advantage of a banned substance using a banned substance and actions which affected a urine sample. Page 2

### ANC visit Maze

LOOKING at the bleak walls of The Maze prison in Northern Ireland gave two visiting South Africans a sense of déjà vu: the ANC delegates had suffered at the hands of the apartheid regime, and they hoped now to help in the release of "political prisoners" in Northern Ireland. Page 2

### Italy's MPs pitch in

FOOTBALL violence was high on the agenda in the Italian Lower House yesterday but not as a topic for debate; users struggled to restrain furious MPs as insults and fists flew during a short but passionate exchange about contested decisions by first-division referees. Page 12

### Flood of doom

JOSE Maria Bustillo, 59, has been working his five-hectare plot for 30 years. Four hectares of it are now coated with toxic mud that burst from a mine reservoir and cascaded down the valley at the weekend, threatening Spain's most important nature reserve downstream. Page 14

## Business news

### Beans mean cash

THE market for coffee beans received a boost yesterday when Seattle Coffee Company, the UK chain of 56 coffee shops was taken over in a £40m deal by Starbucks, an American chain with 1,600 outlets. Owners Ally and Scott Seaton will net £15m from the deal. Page 22

## Sports news

### Middlesex victory

KEITH BROWN in a century to help Middlesex to victory by six runs over Sussex in a Benson and Hedges Cup match at Lord's. Warwickshire beat Lancashire by 49 runs and Nottinghamshire beat the Minor Counties by five wickets. Franklyn Rose, Nottinghamshire's Jamaican fast bowler, established a county record in the competition by taking five wickets for just 14 runs. Page 29



High-level protest: Members of the police climbing squad arresting Kate, a student, after she scaled the Department of Trade and Industry building in London yesterday in protest against the sale of arms to the Turkish, Indonesian and Saudi Arabian governments. Photograph: Richard Lewis

## Dental warning to pregnant women

By Jeremy Bourne  
Health Editor

WOMEN were advised yesterday against having dental amalgam fillings during pregnancy to avoid causing possible harm to the unborn foetus.

The health department issued the warning because of the "theoretical risk" that mercury vapour released during the drilling and filling could reach and cross the placenta. Temporary fillings and those using other materials are not involved.

However, it stressed that this was a purely precautionary measure and there was no evidence that the fillings could harm an unborn child. The advice from the Government's Chief Dental Officer, Robin Wild,

and Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Jeremy Metters, follows a statement from the Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COT) on the toxicity of dental amalgam.

The committee concluded that there was no evidence of "systemic toxicity" (mercury entering the bloodstream) from amalgam fillings, but says it may be prudent to avoid fillings during pregnancy, where possible, until further research has been done.

The committee considered the matter after disagreements among some scientists and dentists over the safety of dental treatment in pregnancy. Margaret Cameron, a biologist and Scots president of the charity Foresight, which helps

women with pregnancy problems, called last year for a ban on amalgam fillings in pregnancy and advised pregnant women who worked in dental surgeries to find other jobs.

Women are granted free NHS dental care during pregnancy because the hormonal changes are known to make them more prone to tooth decay. Many take the opportunity to have their teeth fixed so they can escape NHS charges for treatment.

In a letter sent to all dentists, GPs and NHS Trusts yesterday, Mr Wild and Dr Metters say that COT last considered the safety of dental amalgam in 1986. They say the committee's conclusion on that occasion, that there was no evidence of harm apart from a very few cases of hypersensitivity, is unchanged.

"As a precautionary measure, however, COT advise that it may be prudent to avoid, where clinically reasonable, the placement or removal of amalgam fillings during pregnancy."

"Mothers may be reassured that COT found no evidence of harm to children from the treatment of their mothers with dental amalgam during pregnancy. However, it is now generally accepted that women should avoid unnecessary medical interventions during pregnancy in order to minimise any possible risks to the health of the foetus."

The letter continues: "Ultimately it will, of course, be for the patient to decide how she should be treated in the light of her dentist's advice."



Henry Drucker: Row over trusts

## Temper tantrums as Labour's top fund-raisers fall out over 'blind trusts'

By Fran Abrams  
Political Correspondent

TONY Blair's chief fund-raiser threw a Labour Party consultant out of his north London mansion after a row over the party's "blind trusts", it was claimed yesterday.

The Prime Minister was later forced to deny allegations by the consultant, Henry Drucker, that he must have known the identities of "anonymous" donors to his office through such a trust.

Dr Drucker said the millionaire record producer Michael Levy - now Lord Levy - was "very angry" after he said the trusts should be scrapped.

Speaking to the Neill committee on political funding, Dr Drucker described the trusts as "evil".

Dr Drucker, who raised £340m for Oxford University, was approached by Labour in 1996 to look for new, large donors. But an initial survey showed potential benefactors were put off by the existence of blind trusts, which paid for Shadow Cabinet members' offices, he said.

In a draft report, Dr Drucker recommended that Labour would raise more money if it got rid of them, he told the Neill inquiry. "I was out-gunned by Michael Levy... he was n't having it and that was it," he said.

Outside the hearing, he de-

scribed the scene when he went to an early morning meeting at Mr Levy's impressive modern house in Putney. No sooner had he and a colleague entered than the senior fund-raiser, who was also Tony Blair's tennis partner, began shouting at him. "He stood up. He shouted. The whole meeting was conducted in shouts," he said.

Dr Drucker's fund-raising suggestions were rejected a few days after the meeting and he parted company with Labour, he said.

"I don't believe that these people would have given a bean unless there were enough nods and winks that Tony was, of course, very grate-

ful, that they were assured that this was the case," he said.

Asked about the claim in Prime Minister's Questions, Tony Blair denied that he or his colleagues knew the source of their funding.

Tony's cronies, page 17

## Blair anger at 'repugnant' Mary Bell deal

By Ian Burrell  
Home Affairs Correspondent

IN A powerfully worded attack, Tony Blair said yesterday that it was "inherently repugnant" that people such as the child-killer Mary Bell should make money from books about their crimes.

The Prime Minister, who had not spoken publicly about the Bell case before, said during an interview: "I can't believe it's right." And he indicated he would like the law changed to ban certain categories of criminal from benefiting commercially from books about their offences.

During a question-and-answer session on the Internet at Downing Street, and again later in response to a question in the House of Commons, Mr Blair used strong language to condemn the payments to Bell. But he stopped short of criticising Rupert Murdoch, the owner of the *Times*, which is paying to reissue the book, *Cries Unheard*, by Gitta Sereny. The author is understood to have paid Bell around £50,000 for her help with the book.

Last night, the Attorney General's office announced that it was "examining the possibility" of blocking the payments to Bell in the public interest.

Mary Bell was jailed in 1968 at the age of 11, for the killings of two boys, Martin Brown, aged four, and Brian Howe, three, in the Scotswood area of Newcastle upon Tyne. She is now 41 and lives in legally

protected anonymity with her 14-year-old daughter.

During the Internet interview - conducted by Sir David Frost - in which Mr Blair answered questions from the public, the Prime Minister said: "I just think it's plain wrong for anyone to make money out of what has been the most heinous and appalling crime..."

"I cannot instinctively feel it is right that someone makes money out of a book written about crimes that were absolutely appalling. I don't think it's justifiable. I can't justify it. We must look at whether the law needs to be tightened."

He said the present law prevented people making money from writing about a crime within a specified period of six years. "The question is whether, in respect maybe of certain categories, it should be said you should never be able to make a profit out of crime," he added.

"There seems to be something inherently repugnant about that. I can't believe it's right. We are looking at it."

Earlier yesterday, the mother of one of Bell's victims, June Richardson, was given personal assurances by the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, that he was looking "very urgently" at the law to stop offenders making profits from their crimes.

She said that 30 years after the death of her four-year-old son Martin, the controversy over a book on the killer's life was now bringing back painful memories. "I think no one

should be able to profit from crime. I think there's got to be a law brought out as soon as possible to stop it ever happening to other victims," she said.

"I can't forgive [Bell] for the life I've had to lead and the life I'm leading at the moment."

Gitta Sereny, who said the payment to Bell was less than £50,000, defended her book by saying it would help the public to understand why people like Bell - who she described as a "horribly damaged child" - acted as they did.

"Breaking points exist and we have to learn how they come about, and that is what we are learning through Mary, with Mary's help, because she is very intelligent and she has really devoted herself, if you like, to helping to establish this," she said.

A solicitor who acted for the father of the murdered toddler Jamie Bulger agreed with Sereny that the book could help Mrs Richardson. Rex Makin, who has represented Ralph Bulger, said: "She may find some solace and comfort when she knows what went on in the mind of the girl and also to know what her background was."

But yesterday the support group Mothers Against Murder and Aggression announced a letter-writing campaign calling on large bookstores not to sell the book. Mrs Richardson will support a protest by the group in Newcastle on Saturday.

Blair on the Net, page 10  
Leading article, page 20

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# Ministers join attack on 'greedy' lawyers

By Ian Burrell and  
Jeremy Laurence

THE WAR between the Government and the legal profession escalated yesterday as two cabinet ministers launched scathing attacks on the perceived greed of criminal and medical lawyers.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, accused crime lawyers of "using their imagination" to boost their legal aid fees by dragging out cases. He said they were creating an "ad-journment culture" by giving "ridiculous reasons" for postponing hearings.

Joining the attack, Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, said medical negligence claims had cost the NHS £235m in 1996-97 - a 17 per cent increase on the previous year. "Every pound spent in the courtroom is a pound not spent on patient care. We must do everything we can to keep lawyers out of hospitals and keep the doctors, midwives and other health professionals out of court so they can concentrate on patients," he said.

The criticisms follow the publication yesterday by Lord Irvine, the Lord Chancellor, of a list of barristers and solicitors earning between £190,000 and £670,000 a year from legal aid work. The "name and shame" exercise, which especially highlighted the earnings of personal injury lawyers, was seen as an attempt to soften up the profession for proposed cuts in the £1.4bn legal aid budget.

Lord Irvine plans to end legal aid for personal injury cases this summer and replace it with conditional "no-win, no fee" agreements.

Yesterday, Geoff Hoon, a minister at the Lord Chancellor's Department, told the Law Society's legal aid conference that the system was "frozen in the 1950s".

He said: "We must develop modern ways of paying for legal services. Conditional fees offer part of the answer. Where litigation can be funded in other ways, legal aid can be removed without any reduction in access to justice."

Mr Hoon claimed that since 1990-91 the average cost to the taxpayer of a legal aid case had increased by 53 per cent above inflation.

Mr Dobson's comments were made at the Royal College of Midwives annual conference in Bournemouth.

Figures out yesterday from the Medical Defence Union, which insures 80,000 GPs and hospital doctors in the UK, showed claims rising at 15 per cent a year.

The trends, which have alarmed ministers, suggest the cost of litigation is doubling every five years. Mr Dobson announced that he was writing to a range of medical organisations to seek their views on how to stop unnecessary litigation sapping NHS resources.

Mr Straw's criticisms, made in an interview with *The Law Society Gazette*, prompted an angry response from Law Society president Philip Sycamore who said the Home Secretary showed a "depressing lack of understanding of the legal aid fees system".

Mr Straw does, however, have the benefit of personal experience. As a criminal barrister in the 1970s, he saw the system at first hand. He said: "Amongst quite a lot of solicitors the game has become more ritualised."



First Lady of the Footsie: Marjorie Scardino, head of Pearson, oversees a workforce of 18,000 and a business worth £5bn on the stock market. Photograph: Neville Elder

## New accolade for First Lady of the Footsie

### IN THE NEWS MARJORIE SCARDINO

SHE has been called the First Lady of the Footsie. Now Marjorie Scardino, the first woman to head one of the country's top 100 companies, has been named businesswoman of the year, writes Clare Garner.

Ms Scardino, 51, chief executive of the international media group Pearson, which publishes the *Financial Times* and owns Madame Tussaud's, was yesterday presented with the Veve Cliquot Businesswoman Of The Year award, the most coveted accolade in the field.

The Texan-born mother of three, who took the helm at Pearson in January last year, said she was "immensely flattered". She felt sure other female chief executives of FTSE 100 firms would follow in her footsteps. "Women are making steady progress in business as more companies recognise the danger of trying to attract the best talent while dipping into only half the pool. Women are taking their places alongside men in a business world that is changing faster than most of us ever envisioned. We are all working to raise the standards through competition and open markets."

Yesterday it was Ms Scardino's turn to bask in the limelight, a thrill more recently enjoyed by her 12-year-old son Hal, who has appeared in a number of Hollywood films.

Ms Scardino has spent most of her working life in the media. She started out as a cub reporter with the Associated Press news agency in

Washington, where she met her husband, the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Albert Scardino. The couple live in a flat near the Victoria and Albert Museum in west London.

Later she trained as a lawyer and moved to Savannah, Georgia, where she became a managing partner at a law firm.

She and her husband founded and published the *Georgia Gazette* newspaper. On arriving at Pearson she promised a 10-per-cent earnings growth year on year for five years and predicted that the group's stock market valuation would double in the same period. In 12 months the stock market price rose by 45 per cent.

Colleagues say she is good at motivating people and fond of plain speaking. "She's a good, punchy American woman, nice, attractive, obviously ambitious and going somewhere," said one. "She's quite aggressive, but charmingly. She doesn't shout at anybody." It was reported that she earned £825,115 for her first year at Pearson, although she is reticent about her salary. "I don't have a contract as good as Alan Shearer. Money is not a prime motivating factor," she insisted last year.

Ms Scardino oversees a workforce of 18,000 and a business worth more than £5bn on the stock market.

She writes "Dear Everyone" letters to staff about important events and recently wrote to all colleagues that "these goals are going to be stretched and are going to require every business to be in top form." Among her interests outside work are playing golf and supporting Manchester United - at the behest of her sons. She has even suggested that she plays video games to unwind.

## Mystery stabbing of heir to the house of Dunhill

THERE was a time when you might have found a bright red Lamborghini sports car parked outside Christopher Dunhill's house. Yesterday outside his latest residence, a pub in the East End of London, there was a pale green seafood barrow. It was locked up.

Mr Dunhill, the eldest son of the chairman of Alfred Dunhill Ltd, was in the pub late on Monday night when he was repeatedly stabbed in the head, neck and stomach. The 44-year-old was rushed to hospital where he underwent emergency surgery for 12 stab wounds. Last night he was said to be in a serious but stable condition.

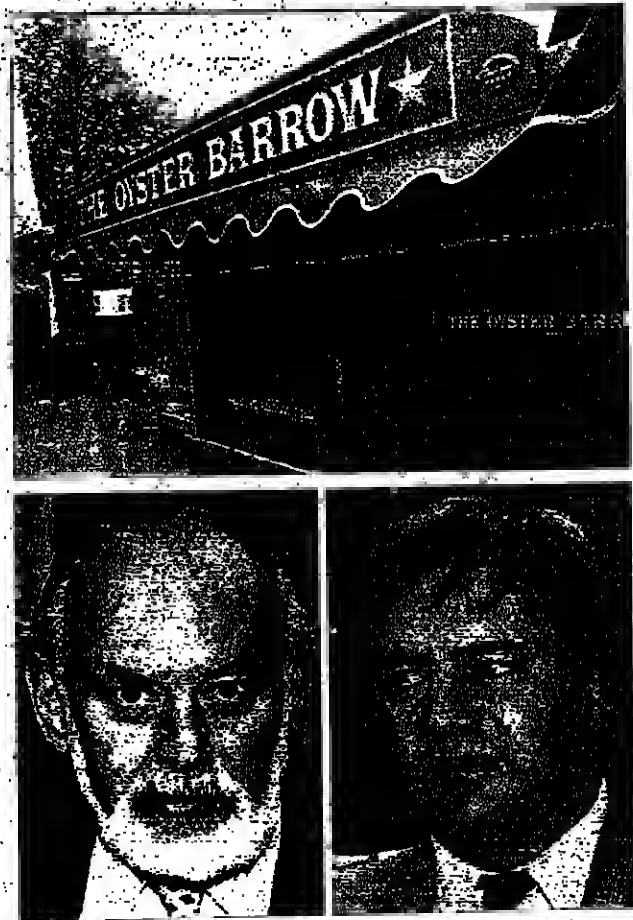
The stabbing, said to have been carried out by three men, is the latest twist in Mr Dunhill's colourful, headline-grabbing life. Once he was known as a playboy who lived the high-life. But more recently - after a string of setbacks - he has appeared to have hit more frugal times. The seafood barrow left propped up outside The House They Left Behind pub in London's Limehouse, is believed to have been his latest business venture.

Mr Dunhill is the great-grandson of Alfred Dunhill, who in 1893 started the tobacco company that famously earned a warrant to supply cigarettes to the Royal Family. The company has since become part of a large conglomerate, his tobacco interests having been sold, and now concentrates on making luxury items sold in up-market boutiques and in duty-free stores - luggage, clothes and even toiletries.

Closely to some reports Mr Dunhill is not any longer, the heir to a £11bn tobacco fortune. But as the eldest son of Richard Dunhill, now chairman of the luxury goods business, he was projected into a privileged way of life and one which once allowed him to boast that he had shorted cocaine in Mrs Thatcher's bathroom.

Having once married to the actress Victoria Burgoyne, famous for her part in *Howards*

A violent attack shows how a one-time high-roller has hit more frugal times. Andrew Buncombe reports



Trail of misfortune: An oyster barrow (top) which is believed to be the latest business venture of Christopher Dunhill (right), and which stands outside the pub in east London where he was repeatedly stabbed on Monday night. His father, Richard Dunhill (left) is chairman of the luxury goods business Alfred Dunhill Ltd. Main photograph: Adrian Dennis

At one time Mr Dunhill was behind a luxury car business that eventually crashed with huge debts. From there he moved into the advertising business, only to be declared bankrupt in 1981 with debts of more than £100,000.

But perhaps his greatest downfall concerned drugs. In 1987 a police raid on his then home in St John's Wood, north

London, discovered a quantity of illegal drugs and £70,000 worth of tapestries which had been stolen from the auction house Christie's. He was given an 18-month prison sentence for supplying cocaine by Knightsbridge Crown Court. That term was later halved by the Court of Appeal and ran consecutively to a six-month sentence for handling stolen tapestries.

Mr Dunhill, who was expelled from Downside public school as a teenager for having a girl in his room, was again declared bankrupt in 1995, allegedly owing more than £3.5m to 16 creditors world-wide.

In the latest episode Mr Dunhill had been in the bar of the pub drinking after hours with the landlord Tony Fran when they were attacked by three men. Mr Fran, 32, was also stabbed, suffering wounds in his arm and buttocks. He was later discharged from hospital. The three men were seen to escape in a dark car.

Whether Mr Dunhill or Mr Fran were the victims of planned and intentional attack was not clear last night. Police declined to comment on possible motives but said they were treating the incident as attempted murder.

"Inquiries are continuing and we are trying to track down any witnesses or anyone who saw the three men drive off the car," said a spokeswoman.

Last night Mr Dunhill's wife Nicki said she had been at her husband's bedside at the Royal London Hospital since he was admitted. She said: "His condition is stable and he will be discharged over the next couple of days."

A source at Alfred Dunhill Ltd said Mr Dunhill's father, and his brother Richard, who runs a business supplying seafood to many of London's restaurants, had also visited him in hospital.

"Of course Mr Dunhill is worried - wouldn't any parent be concerned about their children," said the source.

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# Lawrence family hit out at police 'failures'

By Kathy Marks

THE parents of Stephen Lawrence broke off from the public inquiry into their son's death yesterday to launch a scathing attack on police, accusing them of insensitivity and incompetence.

Doreen and Neville Lawrence were incensed by claims from four detectives that Stephen's murder was not racially motivated and by one officer's description of Mrs Lawrence yesterday as aggressive, unsmiling and taciturn.

At a press conference convened near the inquiry offices at Elephant and Castle, south London, Mrs Lawrence said that, five years after her son was stabbed to death by a white gang, police were still giving "no consideration to our feelings as human beings".

In a statement read by her

sister, Cheryl Sloley, she said: "I have been saying all along that the police were out there to protect the boys who murdered my son and not to ensure that they locked them up for the crime they committed."

Earlier, the inquiry was told of poor relations between the family and two liaison officers assigned to provide them with support and information.

One of the two, Det Sgt John Bevan, admitted that the police liaison had been a failure. "I was put into a difficult job, I gave it my all and, yes, I failed," he said. "I have got to accept some responsibility for that."

Cross-examined by Stephen Kamlish, counsel for the family, he agreed that when asked on a previous occasion whether he felt he had let the Lawrences down, he had replied: "Unfortunately, I think they let me

down. I wanted to help and they wouldn't let me."

Det Sgt Bevan said Mrs Lawrence "adopted an aggressive stance" from the start and never smiled at him when he visited the house. "Even here, at this inquiry, I walk past Mrs Lawrence and she won't acknowledge me," he said.

The inquiry heard that Peter Bottomley, the family's MP, arranged a meeting with Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, because the Lawrences were so frustrated at the lack of information they were receiving from police.

Det Sgt Bevan, who acknowledged that he had no experience or training in police liaison, agreed that he had investigated Stephen's own background and said this was because, in most cases, murder victims were known to their assailants. But Mr Kamlish said:

"You knew that Stephen had been killed in an unprovoked attack by five white racists who did not know him; that was as clear as daylight from day one."

"That was a strong assumption," Det Sgt Bevan replied.

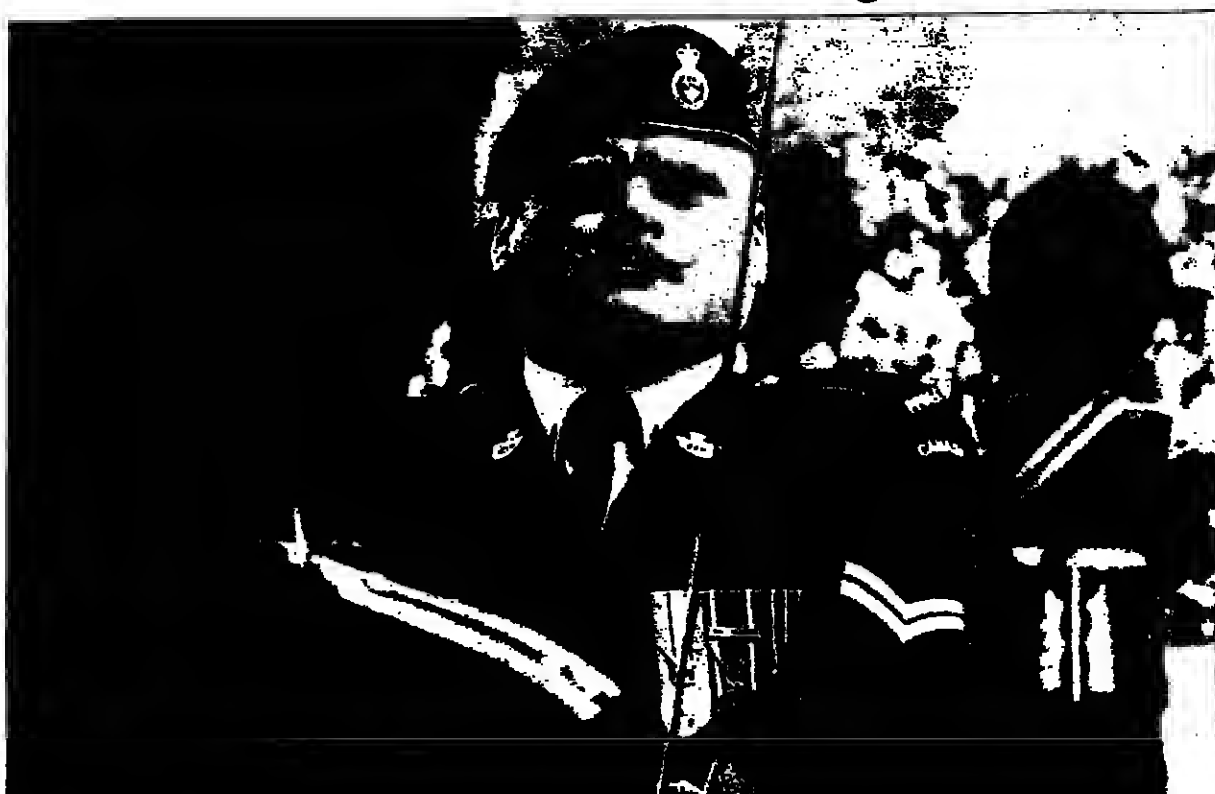
At the press conference, Mrs Lawrence accused police of trying to shift responsibility on to the family for their failure to make arrests for two weeks. "As a family, we got in the way by asking questions," she said.

She said it also appeared that the liaison officers believed that she and her husband had not been grief-stricken.

"They expected me as Stephen's mother to be making cups of tea and entertaining them when they visited our home," she said. "I would like to ask them, what were you expecting from a family whose child had just been murdered?"

The inquiry continues today.

## A small war breaks out in the heart of England



Sword of honour: A corporal in Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry takes part in the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace. The regiment will form a guard at the Palace for a month. Photograph: Paul Hackett/Reuters

## Girl abused at Ashworth

A PAEDOPHILE housed in a secure hospital planned that fellow patients should distract staff so he could abuse a young girl who was visiting, an inquiry was told yesterday.

The allegation was made by a fellow patient to a nurse in the personality disorder unit of Ashworth Hospital, Merseyside. The nurse, Damien Marlow, told the hearing that the man who came to him with the claims - referred to as RM - said he had seen the same convicted paedophile sexually assaulting the child on a garden bench in the hospital.

Mr Marlow, who has worked at Ashworth for nine years, said RM made the allegations about Peter Hemming and the girl, referred to as child A.

In a statement to police recounted to the hearing at Knutsford Crown Court in Cheshire by counsel to the inquiry, John Royce QC, Mr Marlow said RM came to him first alleging that Hemming had threatened his life. During that conversation RM told him he had heard other patients saying Hemming had told them he was going to have sex with child A.

Mr Royce said the claims from RM had followed a search of his room, which had turned up nine pornographic videos and children's underwear.

The inquiry into the activities at Ashworth was told that

RM had later retracted his allegations about Hemming after being questioned by police.

Another nurse told the hearing she had been concerned about the contact between Hemming and child A. Lisa Johnson said she started work on Lawrence Ward in September 1995 and had concerns about security there from day one. "I raised these concerns with other staff on the ward and the team leader on the ward and they were taken to the patient care team," she said. Asked if staff ever told Hemming not to have close contact with child A, she replied: "I cannot recall that."

By October 1996 she felt her verbal concerns were not being dealt with, so she put them in writing into a ward staff book.

Ms Johnson said she had also raised issues such as the discovery of 41 pornographic videos. She went on extended sick leave and since returning to work asked to be moved off the ward.

The hearing was told by a man referred to as patient E that on Lawrence Ward there had existed an "inner circle" of three men who controlled pornography distribution: Hemming, an unnamed patient and child killer Paul Corrigan. Corrigan had been due to make submissions to the inquiry yesterday, but declined to do so.

The hearing continues today.

## Ten-year-old cars are prime target for thieves

CARS that are over 10 years old are 10 times more likely to be targeted by car thieves than newer models, according to a report published yesterday, writes Jason Bennetto.

More than 1,400 cars are stolen every day and almost 20 per cent of car owners are likely to be victims of car-related theft each year. A third of all stolen vehicles, worth £700m, are never recovered. But figures for 1997 show a 17 per cent drop in car crime which is believed to be due to improved security in modern cars.

Volkswagen's Passat was the hardest to steal, with Ford and Vauxhall cars also coming top in their classes, the Consumers' Association's *Car Security Guide* reveals. The cars most frequently stolen were old popular models such as the Metro, Fiesta, Escort, Sierra, Montego and the Maestro.

## Couple accused of cruelty

A MAN and woman accused of cruelty to a 12-year-old boy who was allegedly found bound, gagged and covered in bruises during a police raid on a house in Poole, Dorset, were remanded in custody when they appeared in court yesterday.

The couple, a man aged 36 and a 31-year-old woman, appeared before magistrates after being questioned by police for more than two days. They are charged with cruelty to the boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, causing him grievous bodily harm with intent, and false imprisonment.

## Store cuts cost of sun lotions

SUN-TAN lotions are to be sold at cost price by a supermarket this summer in a bid to persuade more people to use them, it was announced yesterday, writes Kate Watson-Smyth.

The Co-op - which will sell top brands including Ambre Solaire, Piz Buin and Nivea for almost half the recommended retail price - said it was expecting to make a loss of "well into six figures" by the end of the summer. But a spokesman for the store said the company wanted to highlight the dangers of the sun. "By offering sun-protection creams at cost we're demonstrating our commitment to helping people protect themselves for the lowest price possible."

## Awards for BBC presenters

JEREMY Paxman, of BBC2's *Newsnight*, and Sue McGregor of BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme were awarded the television presenter and radio presenter of the year awards by the Voice of the Listener and Viewer lobby group yesterday. Television programme of the year was *Channel 4 News* and radio programme of the year was Radio 4's comedy quiz *I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue*.

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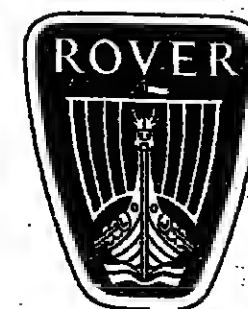
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Informa



## Doctors begin trials on drugs to curb suicides

By Jeremy Laurence  
Health Editor

**NEW DRUGS** which are claimed to "cure suicide" are to be tested in the first international trial aimed at preventing people from taking their own lives.

Scientists believe that the anti-psychotic drugs, introduced in the United Kingdom in the last decade for the treatment of schizophrenia, may have a specific biological action on the brain that curbs suicidal ideas. Preliminary studies suggest that they can cut the suicide rate by at least two-thirds.

There are 200,000 people with schizophrenia in Britain, of whom 20,000 - one in ten - are expected to kill themselves, and up to 80,000 will make an attempt. Rob Kerwin, professor of clinical psychopharmacology at the Institute of Psychiatry, in London, said: "That is a lot of people imminently at risk of committing suicide. But, suicide rates can now be dramatically reduced by novel anti-psychotics. We think they are very important."

Professor Kerwin, who is co-ordinating the British arm of the trial, said fewer than one in four

patients who could benefit from the new drugs was getting them. If all schizophrenic patients were put on them, the Government's public health target of reducing suicides by one-sixth by 2010 could be achieved at a stroke. Ignorance about the drugs, reluctance to switch from the older anti-psychotics, which carry serious side effects including Parkinsonism (shaking hands and stiff gait), and cost all deterred psychiatrists from prescribing them, he said. The newer drugs cost up to £1,800 a year, compared with £50 a year for the older ones.

The trial, which will include 1,000 patients in five countries, will compare two of the new anti-psychotics, clozapine and olanzapine. Patients will be closely monitored and hospitalised or their drugs changed if there is a risk of suicide. "The aim of this trial is to save lives. It is designed to the highest ethical standards. We think it is of such importance to know which is the best drug to prevent suicide."

The researchers hope to prevent any suicides occurring among the trial participants but the drugs will be compared for their effect on suicidal ideas and hospitalisation rates.

Fear of side-effects drove Jonathan Hirst, 19, to refuse drug treatment for his schizophrenia which led directly to his death, his mother said. Ann Hirst described how he had killed himself by falling under a train the day before he was due to have a repeat injection of drugs, which were of the older type.

In a voice breaking with emotion she said: "I am quite convinced it was one of the contributing factors to his death. The last time I saw him he said 'Mum, I have my injection tomorrow and I am terrified.' He took his life rather than have that injection."

Mrs Hirst, who now works as a volunteer for the National Schizophrenia Fellowship, said suicides among people with schizophrenia were concentrated in young men aged 18 to 24.

"If there was loss of young life on this scale from any other illness there would be an enormous public outcry. However, suicide is still considered to be shameful. Even though it costs me a great deal in personal terms to speak about my son's death, I feel compelled to speak out about these tragedies and appalling loss of life."



Tribute: Roy Castle's widow, Fiona, unveils 'The Last Trumpet', a sculpture by Stephen Broadbent at the Lung Cancer Foundation in Liverpool. Photograph: Julian Hamilton

## Britain has 'too many' cancer funds

By Jeremy Laurence

THE head of one of Britain's leading cancer research charities said yesterday that there were too many organisations in the field rattling their collecting tins.

Professor Gordon McVie, director-general of the Cancer Research Campaign said there were now 600 cancer charities and the area had become over-subscribed.

"There are far too many charities and the money is getting dissipated. The large numbers are detracting from the main purpose which is to care, cure and treat cancer patients," he said. He urged people who want to set up a charity in memory of someone who has died of cancer to do so within a bigger organisation.

"People don't realise that although it may be a big organisation people can be quite specific about where they want their money to be used," he said.

The call was backed by MPs and cancer organisations across the country who said too much was now spent on PR consultants and fundraisers. Gerald Howarth, Conservative MP for Aldershot, who

has an interest in hospices, said: "One does begin to wonder whether there is not an element of duplication and that more money than is necessary is being devoted to administration," he said.

But former health secretary Stephen Dorrell warned that it would be wrong to have a rule of "just five big cancer charities".

He said: "There are some small charities that are less effective, but there are also some small charities that are very effective and do some very important work. The burden of proof is on the bigger charities to show that they can deliver better value than other charities working in the same field."

However, another former Conservative health secretary, Virginia Bottomley, said: "Cancer remains a source of great concern for many people, and I applaud the work being done by the charities to raise funds to promote prevention and to campaign for better treatment. But there is merit in Mr McVie's argument that the effort should be put into research treatment and care and not charities campaigning against each other."

## Oxford University defends its position as it slides down league

By Judith Judd  
Education Editor

OXFORD University yesterday shrugged off a survey which shows that it is sliding down the universities' premier league.

The survey shows Oxford, one of the world's most famous universities, trailing behind Cambridge and Imperial College, London. Less well-known universities such as York and Warwick, also outstrip Oxford in teaching quality. However, Oxford pointed out that the survey was one of many and all produced only a snapshot rather than a full picture of universities' performance.

"Oxford was, of course, top of the Government's formal research assessment exercise, and in the past we have interchanged with Cambridge and Imperial," the university said in a statement. "Frankly, we are happy to celebrate that Britain today has a handful of first-class universities."

At the time of the Government research assessment exercise, Cambridge disputed Oxford's position at the top of the tables. The new survey carried out by the *Financial Times* is based on the latest available statistics collected by the Government and other official agencies. It examines performance across 16 categories including the standard required for entry, research, teaching, graduate employment, income from industry and research and

spending on libraries. Most weight is given to teaching and research. Outside Oxford and London, the top universities include York, Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, Bath, Bristol and Warwick. Among the former polytechnics, the top five are the Robert Gordon University, Westminster University, Middlesex University, de Montfort University and Oxford Brookes University.

More than half university lecturers say they would choose a different career if they were starting afresh, according to a new survey of academic stress published today.

Nearly half said that they had seriously considered packing in the job during the last three years and more than half said they felt constantly under strain.

The survey for the Association of University Teachers involved 782 lecturers and was carried out by Gail Kinnman from the University of

Hertfordshire. More than three-quarters of those questioned said that their job had become more stressful. They blamed increased workloads because of rising student numbers and an explosion in the number of administrative tasks that they were required to do.

While demands on lecturers are increasing, resources in higher education are decreasing, they say. There are complaints that they are less likely to be consulted about de-

cisions and that "bullying and intimidatory management tactics" from managers have become more common. They also take issue with the effect that procedures for assessing the quality of university courses are having on students. More than 40 per cent believe they are damaging students because they divert time and attention away from teaching. Most believe the assessments have harmed the quality of education.

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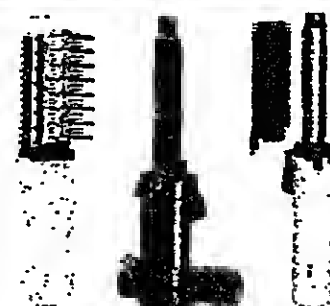
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## Forensic scientists 'perverting justice'

By Charles Arthur

Science and Technology Editor

PEOPLE are being wrongly acquitted in criminal cases because incompetent and dishonest "cowboy" forensic scientists are undermining the criminal justice system, says a leading expert in the field.

"Quack practitioners" were infesting the courts because of the unregulated way their services are marketed, according to Zakaria Erzincliglu, former director of the Forensic Science Research Centre at Durham University. He blames the problem on the previous government's decision to "privatise" the Forensic Science Service (FSS), which examines evidence provided by the police.

As a result of the market created by that decision, "forensic science is totally unregulated and sharks and cowboys abound", he said. In certain sectors "there is nothing to pre-

vent anyone - qualified or not - from advertising themselves as a forensic scientist." Such people "make a very comfortable living indeed".

In an article today in the science journal *Nature*, Dr Erzincliglu says that unless the system is overhauled miscarriages of justice could occur again. He said there were also "innumerable cases" where "fraudulent practitioners have confused matters in court to such an extent that the jury was unable to evaluate the true significance of the evidence".

Mr Erzincliglu called for the use of science as a "barrister's tool" to be ended and replaced by a system where forensic scientists were neutral, paid for by the court system, although it would advise police officers and lawyers the body would not depend on the "goodwill" of its customers. This could be implemented by reversing the agency status of the FSS.



Back to health: Kwa Kwa, the youngest hand-reared gorilla at Howletts Animal Park in Canterbury, Kent, takes his first breath of fresh air after recovering from a bout of pneumonia. Phil Houghton/Kent News & Pictures

## Driver to blame for fatal train accident

By Randeep Ramesh  
Transport Correspondent

A RAIL crash in Watford in which one passenger died and more than 70 people were injured, was caused by the driver of the passenger train involved going through a red signal, the official accident report said yesterday.

Although the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) attributed the "primary cause" to the driver, it also attacked Railtrack, the company that owns the nation's track and signalling, for failing to set up proper investigation procedures. This was despite four previous incidents of trains passing signals at danger at the accident spot.

The report said a combination of repositioning a speed restriction sign, better brakes and installing Automatic Train Protection (ATP) - which will brake for a driver who passes a red light - could have prevented last August's accident.

Vic Coleman, deputy chief inspector of railways, admitted ATP was a recommendation of at least "four inquiries" into railway accidents. The industry has long argued it would be too expensive to implement across the network.

But Mr Coleman said a report reassessing the likely cost of adding ATP to the network would be out next month.

"It is likely to drive it (ATP) faster than it has been taken so far," said Mr Coleman.

Railtrack receive much criticism from inspectors - who pointed out a signal which had been incorrectly set up four

years ago had not been put right by the company.

The effect was to "confuse" the driver who was left with a far shorter braking distance than he would have expected normally.

Although completed last summer, the report was delayed by the trial of the driver Peter Afford - who was acquitted last month of manslaughter on a charge brought by British Transport Police.

Mr Afford, 57, was at the controls of a London to Milton Keynes evening commuter service when it crashed into an empty train just south of Watford Junction station in Hertfordshire in August 1994.

The report's conclusions angered Lew Adams, general secretary of the train drivers' union Aslef, who attacked the report. "The driver is left to carry the can. Our member was acquitted - now he is tried for a second time and found guilty."

Mr Coleman disagreed. "We looked at every aspect of the evidence. We are quite clear that an error was made, but that does not mean there is a conflict with the trial (judgement). People can make mistakes without being criminally negligent."

Despite the report's conclusions, the HSE said it did not believe there was sufficient evidence of breaches of health and safety legislation to justify legal proceedings against any of the other parties involved.

Des Collins, a solicitor representing some of the families affected by the crash, said there were still "real concerns about railway safety".

## Woodhead attacked for usurping role

By Judith Judd  
Education Editor

TEACHERS leaders yesterday accused Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, of usurping the role of David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education.

They attacked Mr Woodhead after he gave a lecture accusing teachers of wasting time and money and suggesting that schools were not short of funds.

The speech, which included comments on teacher training and the national curriculum, came as Mr Blunkett is pressing the Chancellor of the Exchequer for more money to raise school standards.

Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, said: "Chris Woodhead is setting himself up as secretary of state, the authority on school funding - is there nothing that lies outside his scope?"

"As long as the chief inspector of schools, whoever he or she is, remains unaccountable, he can do whatever he likes and David Blunkett can do nothing whatever about it. He should ask Tony Blair, as Prime Minister, to clarify Chris Woodhead's position."

In his lecture to the right-wing think-tank Politeia, Mr Woodhead said that while more money was needed to repair crumbling school buildings, a survey by his office had shown that most shortages of books and equipment were the result of bad management. The key to raising standards was not more money but better teaching.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said in a letter to Mr Woodhead that his intervention had been extremely damaging.

"The Government wants to target substantial additional resources in the direction of schools and yet you - at this cru-



Teachers say Woodhead (top) is undermining Blunkett's position

cial moment - choose to allege that, save for crumbling school buildings, we do not really have a resources problem. I find that incomprehensible."

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Women Teachers, questioned whether Mr Blunkett and Mr Woodhead could both remain in their current positions.

But Mr Blunkett said that Mr Woodhead had been misinterpreted. "There's no difficulty with what he said. Of course I don't expect him to resign. He is perfectly entitled to his views."

In his lecture to Politeia, Mr Woodhead welcomed the establishment of 50 beacon schools to be announced today by Stephen Byers, the school standards minister. The schools, which have all been selected by inspectors for their outstanding performance, will be part of a new scheme to train teachers in schools rather than colleges.

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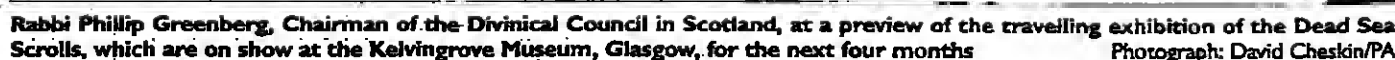
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**By Charles Arthur**  
Science and Technology Editor

The rendering companies, meanwhile, insist that the rise of BSE was not their fault, because they used the same practices at the same times as other countries. Yet the disease, which has infected about a million cat-

Yesterday principals from the rendering industry denied suggestions that flawed cooking in plants had allowed the BSE agent, reckoned to be a misshapen protein, to survive. But they admitted that export regulations fell far below the standards normally required for effective treatment of waste, stipulating too low a temperature. They also admitted that operators might have ended the "cooking" process prematurely as the end of a shift approached, perhaps cutting an hour off a five-hour process.

**By Fran Abrams**  
Political Correspondent

The MPs added that despite high hopes for the new

However, the calls for a ban won strong support from the British Medical Association, which said multi-drug resistant salmonella had multiplied ten-fold in the last six years, probably because of intensive farming methods including antibiotics in cattle feed.

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# Cook's code on arms sales faces unfriendly fire

By Fran Abrams  
Political Correspondent

ROBIN Cook's new European Code of Conduct on arms sales is being watered down under pressure from other arms-dealing countries, a group of leading charities claimed yesterday.

A leaked draft of the ethical code, discussed in Brussels yesterday, contained no reference to the public accountability which was promised in an earlier version, they said.

The organisations, including Oxfam, Christian Aid and Amnesty International, said the new rules should force all European countries to expose their arms sales to Parliamentary scrutiny. Under the latest version they would have to tell each other about them but not the public.

A "loophole" which allowed the export of weapons to repressive regimes if they were for the use of their security forces has been tightened up, the group said. However, the new draft says such sales will still be permissible if the arms are to be used to combat criminal violence. Most security forces

would argue that this was the case, they added.

Also, the economic, commercial and industrial interests of member countries could override some of the accepted criteria on ethical arms dealing. Although human rights and the need to combat international aggression were paramount, the impact of the arms sales on development could be ignored.

France has been the protagonist in attempting to water down the code, the group suggested. After Britain, France has the second largest arms manufacturing sector in Europe.

The sticking point between the two countries remains the level of consultation that must take place before one nation accepts an arms contract that has been turned down on ethical grounds by another. Britain wants all European countries to be allowed to comment, while it appears France just wants the information to be passed to the other country concerned.

The European member states have also failed to agree a common list of equipment to which the code will apply. If they cannot do so then existing

international lists will be used instead, but these do not include much of the military, security and police equipment which the charities say can be used to abuse human rights.

If agreement is not reached in meetings between officials, such as the one which took place yesterday, the matter will be passed to ministers via the EU's General Affairs Council.

The five charities also include Saferworld and the World Development Movement. Last night Paul Eavis, director of Saferworld, said the code was at a crucial stage and should not be watered down.

"It is a vital initiative and tougher export guidelines, more rigorous consultation procedures and increased transparency are still needed if it is to help stem the flow of arms from Europe to the developing world," he said.

A group of campaigners against the arms trade infiltrated the annual general meeting of British Aerospace yesterday, protesting about weapon sales to countries such as Indonesia and Turkey where governments have been accused of repression.



Logging on: Tony Blair takes questions from cyberspace at Downing Street with the help of Sir David Frost

Photograph: PA

## Tony's caught in the net by quest for cup final tickets

By Colin Brown  
Chief Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR yesterday went surfing on the Internet for the first time and was nearly tripped up by his first question from cyberspace. The Prime Minister was asked by a fellow Newcastle United fan: "I don't suppose you have a spare ticket for the cup final?"

Mr Blair seemed unsure: "Actually, I probably do because the one that I was going to have I can't use," he said. He has a G8 conference that day, but

Jason Smith, the "netty" from Newcastle, will not be getting Mr Blair's VIP ticket.

Jason said he was "desperate" for a ticket, but Mr Blair said: "Well I don't know whether I can do anything about that, but I am not going to be going unfortunately."

Mr Blair recently claimed that he knew so little about the Internet that he thought it was something to do with Italian football. But he went surfing with Sir David Frost, who checked on the questions before they were put to

the Prime Minister. He was asked about the issues casting a cloud over the Prime Minister as he celebrates the first year in office - rising interest rates, higher mortgages, and Ken Livingstone.

Julian Hood, of Leyton, asked Mr Blair whether he would like to see Mr Livingstone as the Mayor of London. If Mr Livingstone was hacking into the official Government website, the message was clearly 'don't e-mail us, we'll e-mail you'.

Mr Blair replied: "We haven't got

the referendum through yet." The amoraks in cyberspace also questioned the Prime Minister on whether he supported legalising cannabis - no; banning cigarettes - no; and lowering the age of consent for lesbians and gays to 16 - yes.

Another political "amorak", William Hague, also went surfing from a computer terminal at Conservative Central Office for 30 minutes, answering questions on Europe, taxation, and his experiences since becoming leader from members of the public.

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## Commons offers MPs hi-tech voting

By Anthony Bevins  
Political Editor

A COMMONS voting system that combines infra-red cordless handsets, smart cards and fingerprints was offered to ministers and MPs yesterday as an alternative to the traditional method of "dividing" the House.

The Commons modernisation committee reported that although the present system of voting, under which MPs are physically counted through the lobbies by clerks, was simple, straightforward, generally highly accurate, fraud-proof, and would require no extra cost, it was time-consuming, and there was no chance of correcting a mistaken vote.

The all-party committee suggested means of recording abstentions, and more convenient

voting times, but the balance of the report was clearly tilted towards electronic systems - "smart cards and non-contact readers; fingerprint readers, touch screens, infra-red handsets and remote detectors".

It was even suggested that electronic voting could enable MPs to vote without leaving home, although that was quickly ruled out. "We believe that the House would not wish to make such a radical departure from existing practice, so in all the options we put forward for consideration it is envisaged that voting will take place either in the existing divisions lobbies or in the immediate vicinity of the Chamber," the report said.

While the very notion of electronic voting - and costs of up to £400,000 - will outrage traditionalists, it is possible that there are now enough new MPs

in the House to swing a change. But the complications of the new procedures could be daunting to those who are incapable of working a video recorder.

One of the systems offered uses an infra-red cordless handset. "Members would collect a handset from a rack at the entrance to the Chamber; insert into the handset a unique smart card bearing a record of their fingerprint characteristics; confirm their identity by pressing one of their recorded fingers on the fingerprint reader incorporated in the handset; point the handset at one of the remote detectors ... and vote 'Aye' or 'No', or 'abstain' by pressing the appropriate button on the handset."

Ministers and MPs have until 20 May to fill in a response form on the proposals; recommendations for change could be put to the House later this year.

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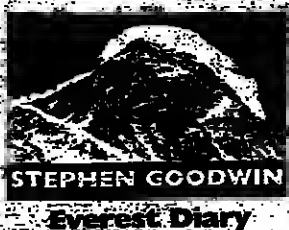
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## Getting the measure of the mountain



STEPHEN GOODWIN  
Everest Diary

THE prolonged roar of an avalanche woke me in the middle of last night. Normally the rumble of falling rocks or ice doesn't disturb me, it is so much a part of the Base Camp background.

But this was a big one, probably off the extended west ridge of Everest, snow and rock spraying down for hundreds of metres.

So continuous is the movement of the Himalayas that even if any of our team stand on the summit in a couple of weeks time, they will not be able to swear precisely how high they are above sea level or where they are in relation to the Tibetan plateau to the north.

Personally, I would settle for 8,848m high or 29,028ft for old imperialists or Americans. But the question of exactly how high Everest is continues to excite some minds and it seems easy to raise funds for survey after survey, despite the unlikelihood of discovering anything new.

This spring is no exception. Wally Berg, a 43-year-old American, is here again leading a small climber-scientist team pursuing, by proxy, the obsession of an 88-year-old cartographer, Bradford Washburn, in Everest's growth and precise position. Washburn directed the Boston Museum of Science from 1939 to 1980 and is revered for his mapping of Mt McKinley, the highest peak in North America, and a map of Everest regarded almost as a work of art.

Berg, a mountain guide, got involved with Washburn about two years ago and regards the old man as his mentor. He traces an early link with the Everest pioneers. Washburn listening "spell-bound" in 1926 to Capt John Noel recounting the 1924 expedition on which Mallory and Irvine disappeared, leaving a question mark over whether they might have reached the summit.

"I consider this a mountaineering trip steeped in tradition," Berg said. Washburn through most of this century has maintained the spirit of mountaineering coupled with science, Berg told me in his spacey dome tent surrounded



High and mighty: Continental drift makes the Himalayas grow at the rate of 1mm a year

Stephen Goodwin

by the hi-tech survey equipment. Berg and his team, including Briton Charles Corfield, hope to power drill a surveyor's bolt station into the bedrock of Everest as near to the summit as possible. One of the problems for would-be surveyors has been that the summit itself is deep under snow and ice. In 1992 a team bored down more than 90 inches without striking rock.

If the climbing goes well, the team will fix a Trimble "I consider this a mountaineering trip steeped in tradition"

4800 Global Position System (GPS) receiver on the bolt to determine the altitude and radar to measure how much ice and snow there is on the summit. Simultaneously GPS receivers will be operated on Everest's South Col and elsewhere in the Khumbu region.

"Until we can get a profile of what the rock under the snow and ice on the summit looks like, the question will remain as to how high is Everest," Berg said. However, admitting the lack of interest in the scientific community in the whole exercise, he doesn't

expect to discover any "earth shattering" difference from the accepted 8,848m.

"The real scientists couldn't give a flip about mounting this station on Everest. But the mountaineering community, active and armchair, are fascinated to know all we can about the mountain and that is what this expedition is a part of."

However Berg does have another intriguing Washburn obsession to pursue. Last year the old man received new photographs of what had previously appeared to be an oxygen bottle embedded in the ice about 20 feet down on the Tibetan north. Washburn thought the bottle's date stamp would indicate the build-up of summit ice, however Berg doubted it could be retrieved. Someone would have to abseil from the summit, hack out the bottle and then climb back up - a formidable exercise at such altitude.

In fact the new photographs indicated the object was not an oxygen cylinder but the remains of a metal tripod placed by the Chinese in an extraordinary military-style ascent in 1975.

"Brad really wants that tripod. I won't say whether it is going to happen this year. I think it's physically risky. But it's on our lengthy list of things to do. If there's a visible way of retrieving this thing

we will do it. We will certainly try to get an accurate measure of how far down it is and get a better picture."

For myself, our Himalayan Kingdoms team is turning away from Everest for a few days and heading down the

Khumbu to the village of Dingboche. The object is to eat heartily and breathe deeply of the oxygen-rich air before returning to Base Camp in about five days ready to go for the summit - whatever its scientifically-determined height.

## 'Daughters at work' day raises legal problems

By Barrie Clement  
Labour Editor

FEMINISTS who today expect thousands of parents to participate in "Take Your Daughter To Work Day" may be flouting the law, according to a senior female solicitor.

By ignoring the increasingly benighted and put-on pupulation of boys the charity behind the nationwide exercise could be guilty of unlawful positive discrimination.

Equal opportunities is perfectly legal and so is "positive action" - ensuring that there are female applicants for jobs - but positive discrimination against either gender is open to legal action.

Blue chip companies like BT, Shell International, Glaxo Wellcome and NatWest are all proponents of the "Our Daughters" charity and could all therefore be held to account.

Ann-Marie Thompson, an expert in employment law at Eversheds, said that she is increasingly dealing with cases where men have suffered from sex discrimination at work.

While welcoming "Take Your Daughter To Work Day",

Ms Thompson warned that employers should set aside positive discrimination in favour of equal opportunity.

The lawyer warns businesses that positive discrimination could result in large claims against them by men.

"It is vital that we continue to create opportunities and support for women as it is true they remain under-represented in certain industrial sectors. Work experience such as "Take Your Daughters To Work Day" often place a significant role in obtaining employment in the future and so should be tackled correctly. Companies should ensure that they provide the same opportunities for both sexes and recognise candidates on their own merits."

She said that an increasing number of men had been successful in winning compensation for discrimination and that the amounts received in such cases have increased by around 60 per cent over the last couple of years. She said that although cases of sex discrimination against women were well known and much publicised, those against men were occurring more frequently.

The idea of introducing girls to the work environment first emerged in the United States, and the exercise is now in its fifth year in Britain.

Ursula Monaghan, project officer for the "Our Daughters" charity, said that the organisation realised that because of boys' under-achievement at school, they had needs as well.

However, she pointed out that high educational achievement by young women was not always translated into success at work. For example while 80 per cent of teachers were women, they were severely under-represented among heads and deputy heads. The number of women in top jobs in most professions was disproportionately low, she said.

The object of the exercise was to ensure that girls were thinking about their future careers when choosing subjects to study at school. The initiative was particularly important in areas where women were under-represented. She argued that a change to "take your children to work" would blunt the edge of the campaign, but suggested that perhaps another day should be chosen for boys.

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THE INDEPENDENT  
THURSDAY 30 APRIL 1998  
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12/FOREIGN

## 50th birthday party keeps Israel squabbling



National honour: A girl looking out through balloons displaying Israel's 50th anniversary logo yesterday as Jerusalem observed the day of remembrance for those killed fighting for the Jewish state. Photograph: Andre Durand/AFP

THE OFFICIAL slogan for Israel's 50th birthday bash, which opened at sunset last night with banners and headdresses, fireworks, drums and barbecues, is: "Together in love, together in hope." The unofficial slogan is: "Despite everything..."

The liberal daily newspaper *Ha'aretz* ran a jubilee feature yesterday under the heading, "50 reasons to live in Israel (despite everything)". And despite everything - the internal divisions, the external uncertainties, security alerts and rising unemployment - ordinary, jaded Israelis are celebrating.

Unprompted, blue-and-white Star of David flags sprouted on car antennae immediately after the Passover holiday. Even though yesterday was a day of mourning for the fallen of Israel's wars, central Jerusalem was bustling with last-minute shoppers and born-again tourists.

Abraham Rosenthal, director-general of the Israel Hotels Association, said that occupancy in Jerusalem hotels was as high as 85 per cent after one of the worst years in the industry's history. In the first quarter of 1998, bookings for rooms were down 20 per cent on the already depressed figures for 1997.

Yet the official celebrations,

While ordinary citizens forget strife and uncertainty, extravaganzas are targets of wrath, reports Eric Silver in Jerusalem

dogged by resignations, mismanagement and charges of political bias, have remained fraught to the last. At a memorial meeting at Tel-Aviv University, families of students killed in war walked out when the left-wing author Yizhar



Smilansky said that Israel would have been at peace and no more soldiers would have died had Yitzhak Rabin not been assassinated.

In the neighbouring town of Holon, other families jeered the ultra-Orthodox deputy housing minister, Rabbi Meir Porush, when he represented the government at a ceremony at the military cemetery. They complained that the young men from his community avoided military service - and that most ultra-Orthodox Jews

ignored the two minutes' silence honoured on remembrance day.

The organisers of a Hollywood-style jubilee extravaganza, scheduled for tonight in the Hebrew University sports stadium, were striving yesterday to save it from the sectarian strife that everyone was trying to forget.

This began when the religious parties demanded the cancellation of a performance by the Batsheva modern ballet troupe in which the dancers strip down to their underwear and smirle during a rendition of a Hebrew hymn. The religious also urged Tuvia Tzafir, a popular comedian, to drop a skit on a leading political rabbi, and suggested a prayer for the safety of Israel he inserted in its place.

Religious MPs accused the dancers of "contempt for the sensibilities of the religious public". The religious parties in the Jerusalem city council, many of whose voters boycott Independence Day as a secular intrusion in the Jewish calendar, added: "The insult is not

only to the religious sector, but to the dignity of the Jewish nation". The Batsheva is one of Israel's flagship dance companies and the offending item was the opening number for a 50th anniversary gala in Washington last month. The company refused to change it.

Deputy housing minister Mr Porush announced that the Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, had promised to meet their demands - a claim that was promptly denied by the Prime Minister's spokesman, who added that the good rabbi had threatened to bring down the Government. The Israel Artists' Union responded by threatening a mass walkout.

"We cannot let censorship in through the back door," the chairman of the union, Shaikeh Levy, protested. "If the artists of Israel have any pride, they have to say: 'This will not be'."

The director of the jubilee festivities, Doron Shmueli, himself a contentious political appointee, defended the performers' rights, but promised to "do my utmost to calm things down and prevent all parties from being offended". Mr Netanyahu is still trying to find a compromise.

A festival spokeswoman said last night: "As of now, the show goes on."

## Kim sends out public message urging unity of the Koreans

By Richard Lloyd Parry

THE North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, has published a long tract calling for dialogue with South Korea, leading to eventual unification of the divided peninsula. In a further sign of his country's new willingness to engage the outside world, he said: "Let us reunify the country independently and peacefully through the great unity of the entire nation."

The open letter, released yesterday by the state-run Korean Central News Agency, continued: "All the Koreans in the North, South and abroad must visit one another, hold contacts, promote dialogue and strengthen solidarity."

The lengthy essay is in the form of a letter to delegates at a North Korean symposium and it contains no new pro-



Kim Jong Il: Promoting dialogue and solidarity

posals. But the fact that it is in the name of Mr Kim, the son and chosen heir of the country's late founder Kim Il Sung, suggests Pyongyang's desire to keep alive contacts with Seoul after a failed round of talks.

Kim Jong Il makes few public appearances and, although numerous turgid tracts have been published in his name over the years, this is the first since his election as general secretary of the Workers' Party last October. Relations between North and South went through a very bad patch after Seoul failed to express condolences on the death of Kim Il Sung in 1994. But in the last three months, after four years of recrimination, satire rattling and tense border incidents, they have taken a gentle turn for the better.

As a former dissident and political prisoner, South Korea's new President, Kim Dae Jung, is an easier man for Pyongyang to deal with than his loathed predecessor, Kim Yung Sam. But more importantly, the North is desperate, locked in a chronic food short-

age which is reported to have left as many as three million people dead.

The two sides met in Peking earlier this month for their first one-to-one meeting in four years, but the talks failed after the South insisted that Pyongyang take steps to reunite families divided by the political rift, as a precondition to providing aid in the form of fertiliser.

Mr Kim's latest statement suggests that the two will meet again. "The April North-South joint conference clearly showed that the Communists, nationalists and various other political forces and different sections of the population would be fully able to unite in the struggle for the common cause of the nation," he wrote, "regardless of the difference in ideology, ideals, political views and religious beliefs."

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# France's Mr Honest denies kick-backs

By John Lichfield  
in Paris

THE former French foreign minister Roland Dumas, now chief watchdog of honesty in French public life, was placed under formal examination for corruption yesterday.

Mr Dumas, 75, one of the most celebrated lawyers in France, whose clients have included Pablo Picasso and François Mitterrand, is suspected of taking kick-backs - including a £1,100 pair of shoes - while he was foreign minister from 1988-93.

He was placed under judicial investigation yesterday - one step short of a formal charge - for "receipt or aiding and abetting the receipt of embezzled company funds". Mr Dumas is the fifth most senior political figure in France. He is president of the constitutional council, the body which, amongst other things, judges the honesty of

near Bordeaux yesterday to place him under formal examination. He claims that, as a former cabinet minister, his case must go directly to a higher authority, the Court of Justice of the Republic.

The expensive life-style of Mr Dumas, and that of his long-time mistress, have long been the subject of speculation. In November last year his mistress, Christine Deyers-Joncour, 51, was placed in custody. She has since admitted to the two investigating judges that she took "commissions" of at least £6m to influence his ministerial decisions on arms sales, especially a controversial sale of six frigates to Taiwan in 1991-2.

The commissions were paid by the oil firm Elf, the largest company in France, which acted as a deal-maker and fixer for the French arms maker, Thomson, in the sale of the frigates. Mr Dumas originally vehemently opposed the sale on the grounds that it would disrupt political and commercial relations with China. Later, the then Socialist government changed its mind (but not before Mr Dumas squared the Chinese authorities on a visit to Peking).

Mr Dumas denies receiving so much as a shoe-lace from the frigate sale. He admits that his £1,100 shoes were bought for him on a charge card which was given to his mistress by Elf. He claims that she temporarily settled the account for him and that he repaid her later.

Several witnesses have told the investigating judges, however, that it was Mr Dumas who arranged for Elf to take on his mistress as a "public relations consultant" in the first place. Her only duty appears to have been to lobby her lover.

For this, and attending two meetings, £6m was deposited by Elf in her Swiss bank account.

According to press leaks, the investigators have established circumstantial links between withdrawals from her Swiss account and the roughly £1m in cash paid into a Dumas bank account in Paris during this period.

Mr Dumas says he didn't receive so much as a shoelace from the frigate sale

French elections and politicians.

The case creates a possible constitutional crisis: can Dumas remain in this post while under examination for dishonesty himself? On the other hand, if he is forced to resign, does not that undermine his right to be presumed innocent? French politicians were sharply divided on the issue yesterday. President Jacques Chirac has previously said that the Socialist Mr Dumas must stay in office; Mr Chirac's own party, the neo-gaullist RPR insisted yesterday that he must go.

Mr Dumas, who is convalescing after a hip operation, is refusing to co-operate with the two judges handling the case. They travelled, amid much media fanfare, to his country home

# Bonn takes a tougher line on Euro-bank

By Imre Karacs  
in Bonn

FACED BY a Bundesbank revolt, the German government hardened its stance yesterday towards France in the row over who should be in charge of Europe's common currency.

After a meeting of the cabinet in Bonn, officials let it be known that the compromise intended to placate the French government was no longer on the table.

At this weekend's European summit in Brussels, Chancellor Helmut Kohl will be pushing for a snap decision in favour of his man.

The Germans had never made secret of the fact that Wim Duisenberg, former head of the Dutch Central Bank, was their candidate to take over the European Central Bank. The ECB, to be based in Frankfurt, will be born on 1 July. Its task will be to oversee the introduction of the euro.

France, however, feels it has sacrificed too much on the altar of monetary union without gaining any recognition as a great power.

Last year, the French government threw the hat of Jean-Claude Trichet, its chief central banker, into the ring, and now finds it impossible to withdraw the application no one in Europe had sought.

The impasse was to have been resolved by a clever com-

promise, allowing Mr Trichet to supplant Mr Duisenberg midway through his eight-year term. But this job-share arrangement, mediated with the help of the British presidency, has fallen victim to hardliners in Bonn and Frankfurt.

A telephone call from Tony Blair to Chancellor Kohl on Tuesday proved fruitless. Yesterday, the German cabinet nominated Oskar Lafontaine, the hardline chief economist of the Bundesbank, to the six-member board of the European Central Bank, and also served notice that Mr Kohl would push for a final decision on the composition of the ECB's top flight this Saturday.

Bonn's sudden urgency - a decision does not have to be taken until July - echoes mounting concern in Frankfurt. Hans Tietmeyer, the President of the Bundesbank, has written to Chancellor Kohl expressing his opposition to the job-share plan, and is expected to receive full backing from the Bundesbank's governing council when it meets today.

Frankfurt is threatening to withdraw its support for the euro if the wrong choice were made, thus triggering currency turmoil and a political crisis all over Europe.

Both have heeded the warning. The question now is whether the French government has the nerve to call the Bundesbank's bluff.



Foul play: Domenico Gramazio (top centre) is restrained as the football debate turns violent

Photograph EPA

# Fists fly as Italy's MPs succumb to a bout of football fever

By Anna Hanley  
in Rome

FOOTBALL violence was high on the agenda in the Italian Lower House yesterday - but not as a topic for debate.

Ushers struggled to restrain furious MPs as insults and fists flew during a short but passionate exchange about decisions by first division referees.

Italy's emotional relationship with soccer is legendary, and feelings have been running higher than usual since the referee in last Sunday's league match between Juventus and Internazionale made much-disputed penalty decisions which helped Juventus to a 1-0 victory and an unbeatable first division lead.

It was this match, and possible changes to the refereeing system, which were being discussed in the House yesterday, but the session was short-lived.

"Comparing it with the stands would be an insult to football fans," said an indignant deputy prime minister

Walter Veltroni (Juventus) after Domenico Gramazio of the right-wing National Alliance (Roma) and Massimo Mauro of the Democratic Left (a former Juventus player) lunged at each other across the House.

"Every referee in this country drives a Fiat," screamed Gramazio, a BMW owner, accusing match officials of accepting favours from the Agnelli group which owns both Fiat and Juventus of Turin. "Foul, who the \*\*\*\* do you think you are?" shouted Mauro, a Juventus player from 1985-9.

In a country where few areas of public life have escaped accusations of corruption and foul play, the football world stands out for its relatively clean slate. Even in the case of last Sunday's game, few critics have gone as far as suggesting match-rigging.

But supporters' nerves have been stretched. And while Italian fans have kept violence in the stands to a minimum, Italian MPs have yet to reach such heights of maturity.

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# Spain counts cost of a poisoned flood

By Elizabeth Nash  
in Huelva, near Seville

YOU CAN walk to the Guadamar river from the hamlet of Huelva, through olive groves, along pathways lined with michaelmas daisies and meadow sweet and poppies whose scarlet heads dance in the breeze. Then the alluvial soil, so fertile for the smallholders' crops of sunflowers, wheat and cotton, disappears beneath a rubbery blanket of lead-grey sludge tinged with green, thickening like asphalt.

Jose Maria Bustillo has been working his five-hectare plot for 30 years. Four hectares are coated with toxic mud that burst from a mine reservoir and cascaded down the Guadamar valley at the weekend, threatening Spain's most important nature reserve downstream. "I'm ruined," he says.

He doubted he could sell the small portion of the sunflower crop that remained above the deadly tide, because of fears that heavy metals and chemical pollutants in the mining waste will contaminate everything around. "I can't even irrigate what remains, because the well on my plot is polluted."

The regional farmers' association in Seville, Asaja, says 6,000 hectares of farmland have been inundated, causing losses of 1.5bn pesetas (£7.2m). Paco Castro, a biologist from Huelva, says all the sludge must be dug



Wall of death: The ruptured dam, through which a flood of toxic waste escaped, killing everything in its path and threatening the Doñana nature reserve  
Photograph: Reuters

dent should the courts decide against him. "But until the causes have been established, it's too soon to assign blame."

Mineworkers have warned for years that the toxic-deposit lakes that clutter this rich mining area were shoddily built and poorly monitored. "These deposits are a time-bomb waiting to explode," says Nicolas Ramirez, a former miner from nearby Rio Tinto, forced to retire eight years ago.

The European Commission has asked the government in Madrid and the Andalusian authorities for information on what caused the reservoir wall to crack, sending effluent cascading more than 60km to the sea. Dyke-building diverted the flow away from the heart of the UN-protected Doñana nature reserve. But park scientists fear poison elements will seep through anyway and blight the wetlands for decades. Mr Bustillo is still in shock. "When I came to work on Saturday and found everything soaked with this black stuff, I knew something terrible had happened. And I guessed what it was."

up and carried off. But even if this is done - and Mr Bustillo doubts the authorities will go to such lengths - the cocktail of zinc, mercury, copper, acidic compounds and other metals will already have seeped into underground aquifers and poi-

soned everything. "This fine soil is like a sponge, it soaks up everything," Mr Castro says, stumping behind Mr Bustillo. "And everything that was alive is now dead." He picked up the husk of a river crab, corroded to a crisp by the fierce concen-

tration of acid. Mud-coated fish and eels, stinking, lay stranded by the receding flood. Fresh, star-spiked tracks of a stork criss-cross the murky banks. "It's easy food for them, dead fish," said Mr Castro.

The Andalusian regional government fought hard to increase its autonomous powers. Mr Castro says, "but now this has happened they don't want to know." The regional authorities are suing the Swedish mining company Boliden Apirsa, owners of the toxic-waste

reservoir upstream at Aznalcollar.

But the company says it met all the regulations imposed by the regional authorities. Boliden's chairman, Anders Bulow, said yesterday he would take responsibility for the acci-

## Move to halt executions

NIGERIAN rights group pleaded with the country's generals to spare the lives of six men sentenced to death for plotting to overthrow the military ruler, Sani Abacha. The ruling Military Council must ratify the sentences on General Abacha's former deputy, Oladipo Diya, and the other five before they can be carried out.

— Reuters, Lagos

## Sudan aid

IN AN attempt to overcome the restriction on air drops of supplies in southern Sudan, World Vision aid agency has trucked in food. It has transported 878 tonnes, mostly from Uganda, for feeding stations in the worst-affected areas in Tonj and Gogrial, the first significant movement of food aid by road into Sudan since 1989.

## Flogging plea

JAMAICAN Court of Appeal is to hear arguments on whether judges should sentence convicts to floggings. Noel Samuda and Walford Ferguson, sentenced in separate cases, appealed, saying it is inhumane. The British Privy Council, which serves as the supreme court for most former colonies in the Caribbean, recently tightened restrictions on the practice.

— AP, Kingston

## Students riot

THOUSANDS of Indonesian students surged on to the streets in an anti-government demonstration, torching a policeman's motorcycle before tear-gas shells forced them back on to their campus. The protest at the University of North Sumatra in Medan, at the forefront of protests against President Suharto, came after the campus was closed for a week in the apparent hope of cooling passions.

— Reuters, Medan

## Allies work on carrot-and-stick package to halt Kosovo's carnage

ROME (AP) — The Contact Group of nations was yesterday debating incentives and penalties to stop Yugoslavia's military crackdown in the mainly Albanian province of Kosovo.

The group monitoring Yugoslav is struggling to deal with escalating violence in the province, which threatens to spill over into neighbouring Al-

bania. They fear that Greece and Turkey could be drawn in to the fighting. Italian diplomats said the talks were focusing on three issues: how to start a concrete dialogue between Albanian separatists in the province and Belgrade; a carrot-and-stick package; and how to stop the violence spreading to Albania.

Representatives from the

group's nations, which comprise Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Russia and the United States, worked into the evening to come up with a joint statement.

A potential sanction would be a stepped-up freeze on foreign investment in Yugoslavia, whose economy already is suffering. Other potential punish-

ments mentioned were a hold on Yugoslav assets abroad and a trade ban.

The French government yesterday called for "additional pressure" from the international community to prevent the situation in the province from getting worse. "France wants real results in Rome, a strong signal," French foreign ministry

spokeswoman, Anne Gazeau-Serret, said in Paris.

The US has said it is ready to adopt unspecified measures on its own if the group cannot agree on tougher sanctions. But the Contact Group is holding out the incentive of steps to end Yugoslavia's international isolation if it responds favourably. Serb security forces

launched military operations on 28 February, saying that they were countering militant ethnic Albanian separatists. About 150 people have been killed since then.

The Serbs consider Kosovo vital to their identity as a nation, but of the population of two million, nine out of ten people are Albanians. They seek au-

tonomy, something which Yugoslavia's leader, Slobodan Milosevic, has refused.

In March, the United Nations Security Council sought to pressure Mr Milosevic to grant some degree of autonomy to the province by imposing an arms embargo, although the move was largely symbolic since both sides were well-armed.

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## Fear grips India as Aids epidemic looms closer

By Peter Popham  
in New Delhi

IN A VILLAGE outside Madras in south-east India on Sunday, a mob surrounded a young man, beat him unconscious, then poured petrol on him and burned him to death. Lynch killings are not all that rare in rural India even today. What made the murder at Chennerkuppam exceptional was its connection with Aids.

According to some of the villagers, speaking to two journalists from the *Indian Express* who happened to be driving through at the time, the youth had Aids, and had been threatening to get even with society by injecting passers-by with HIV-infected blood. Last year there was a spate of such grisly menaces in Madras. Others described the dead man as carrying those universal symbols of the transient and untrustworthy, a cellphone and a pager, as well as a syringe. When the rumour of what he was trying to do spread through the village, the mob gathered and murdered him. Four policemen, who rushed to the scene were unable to persuade the crowd to let him go.

The gruesome incident highlighted the fact that while, in terms of the numbers of people affected, India can fairly be described as the Aids capital of the world, the levels of ignorance and superstitious fear of the disease are practically medieval. India's poverty and grossly inadequate health-care system mean the incidence of HIV and Aids is massively under-reported. While the state's Aids watchdog, the National Aids

Committee (NACO), estimates that there are 70,000 HIV cases in the country and 6,000 Aids cases, the independent Indian Health Organisation (IHO), based in Bombay, puts the HIV number at 7 million and the figure for full-blown Aids sufferers at 500,000. The head of IHO, India's most prominent campaigner for Aids awareness, Dr IS Gilada, believes that by 2001, in the most optimistic estimate, there will be 20 million HIV cases in the country and 2 million cases of Aids.

Yet India as a whole seems frighteningly unprepared for the raging epidemic that is on the way. Among the illiterate there is the sort of hysterical fear manifested on Sunday in Chennerkuppam; only the latest case in which suspected Aids sufferers have been banished or killed and the communities they come from ostracised. "Rumours," as Dr Gilada puts it, "spread faster than HIV." But among the educated, the prevailing attitude is one of impenetrable complacency, and a level of ignorance not much superior to that of the villages.

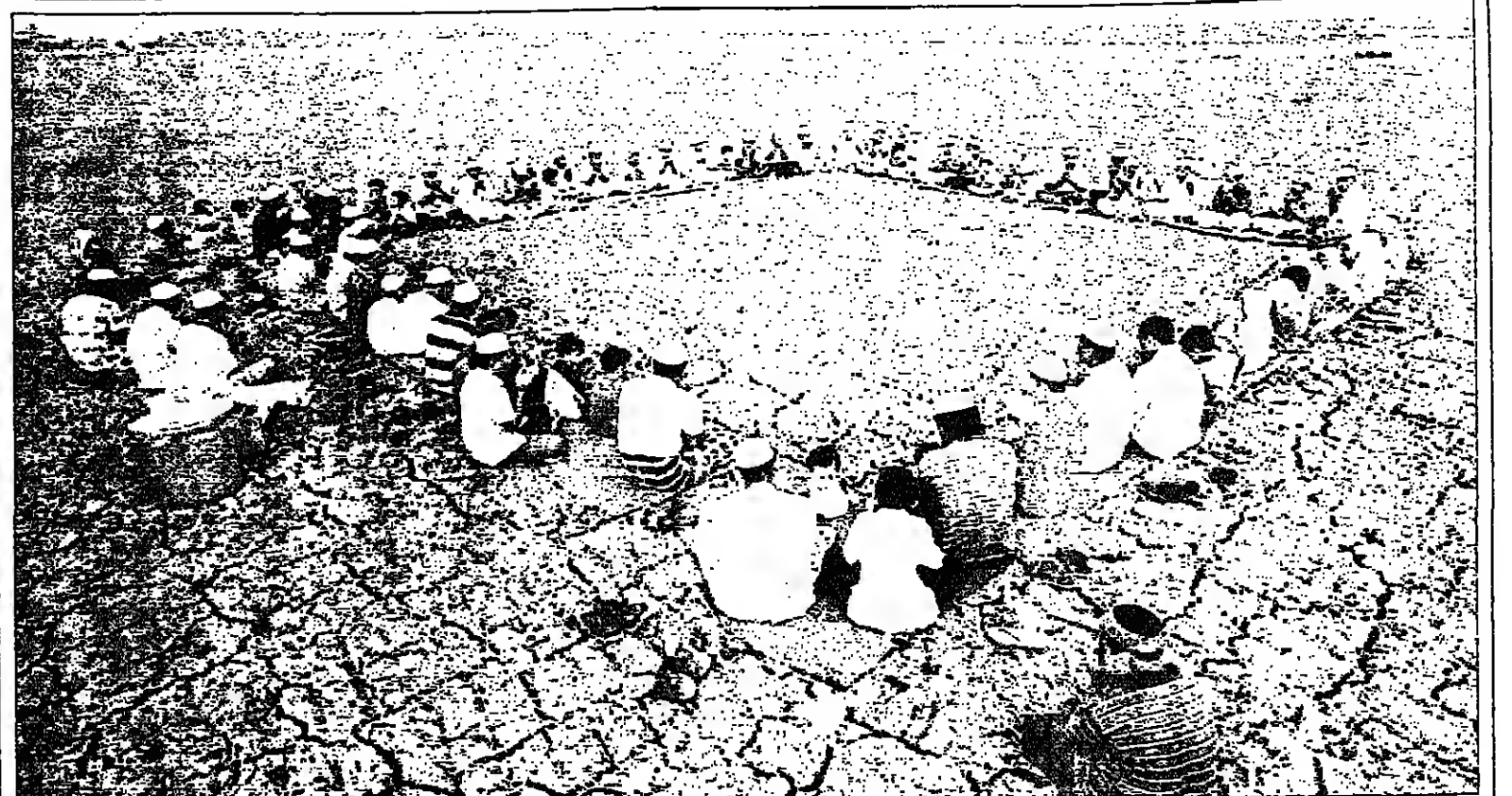
A study carried out two years ago involving 25 veteran Delhi GPs who participated in an Aids awareness programme organised by the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, revealed amazing ignorance. Six of the 25 did not know what Aids stood for; many believed it could be transmitted by saliva, tears, dirty laundry, or shared crockery or swimming pool water. Three believed that aspirin was an effective treatment.

Aids is seen in India as a foreign disease, a problem of the decadent West. Among the re-

spectable, sex outside marriage is supposed not to happen, so the diseases of promiscuity are swept under the carpet, too.

When the Hollywood actor Richard Gere appeared at Aids fund-raising events in Delhi and Bombay earlier this month, he was unable to contain his indignation.

"It is astonishing," he said, "that there are no medical facilities to fight the Aids menace that is threatening the country. You have not taken the issue seriously. The country will die if the Aids menace is ignored. India needs to begin at ground level as far as Aids is concerned, starting with educating people about the disease and its implications."



Looking to the heavens: Farmers praying for rain in a parched field near Alor Star in Malaysia, following a call by the local agricultural development authority that they should seek divine intervention in the country's worst drought for years  
Photograph: New Straights Times/Reuters

## Chinese ban on pyramid sales sparks rioting

Peking fears same fate as Albania as get-rich-quick schemes gain ground

By Teresa Poole  
in Peking

TEN people have been killed and 100 injured in riots in Hunan province following the Chinese government's decision this month to ban direct pyramid selling schemes.

It is the worst violence yet connected with an upsurge of the pyramid schemes, some operating as quasi-cults, which have seen hundreds of thousands of people flooding into central and southern China to sign up for the "get-rich-quick" scams.

Last week the State Council announced a ban on all direct-selling organisations, fearing China was facing the same fate as Albania, where the collapse of dodgy pyramid selling schemes prompted widespread violence.

In the central Chinese city of Wuhan, in a highly publicised recent example, 120,000 Chinese from all over the country poured into the city to sign up as sales staff for the Xinglian direct-selling organisation. The Wuhan scheme was typical of pyramid scams.

To join, applicants each had to pay 3,900 yuan (£300) for an exercise machine which cost 600 yuan in the market.

They then had to persuade friends and relations to buy the overpriced machine in order to receive commission.

But the fortune-hunters found their savings had disappeared on unsaleable machines, and angry sales staff took to the streets, with the police having to break up a demonstration of 50,000 people in the city.

It was reports of the Wuhan incidents which prompted last week's ban.

The government says the organisations are being run on the lines of religious cults, and Peking fears that if thousands are conned into losing their money, there could be a threat

to social stability in these cities. Yesterday's reports of serious violence come from the southern province of Hunan and seem to have involved angry sales staff who had not been able to recover money from pyramid schemes which have now been shut down.

The people running the schemes have generally disappeared since the ban was announced, or are refusing refunds for unsold goods.

According to reports, in Zhangjiajie, Hunan province, six people were killed and more than 100 injured in riots since the ban took effect.

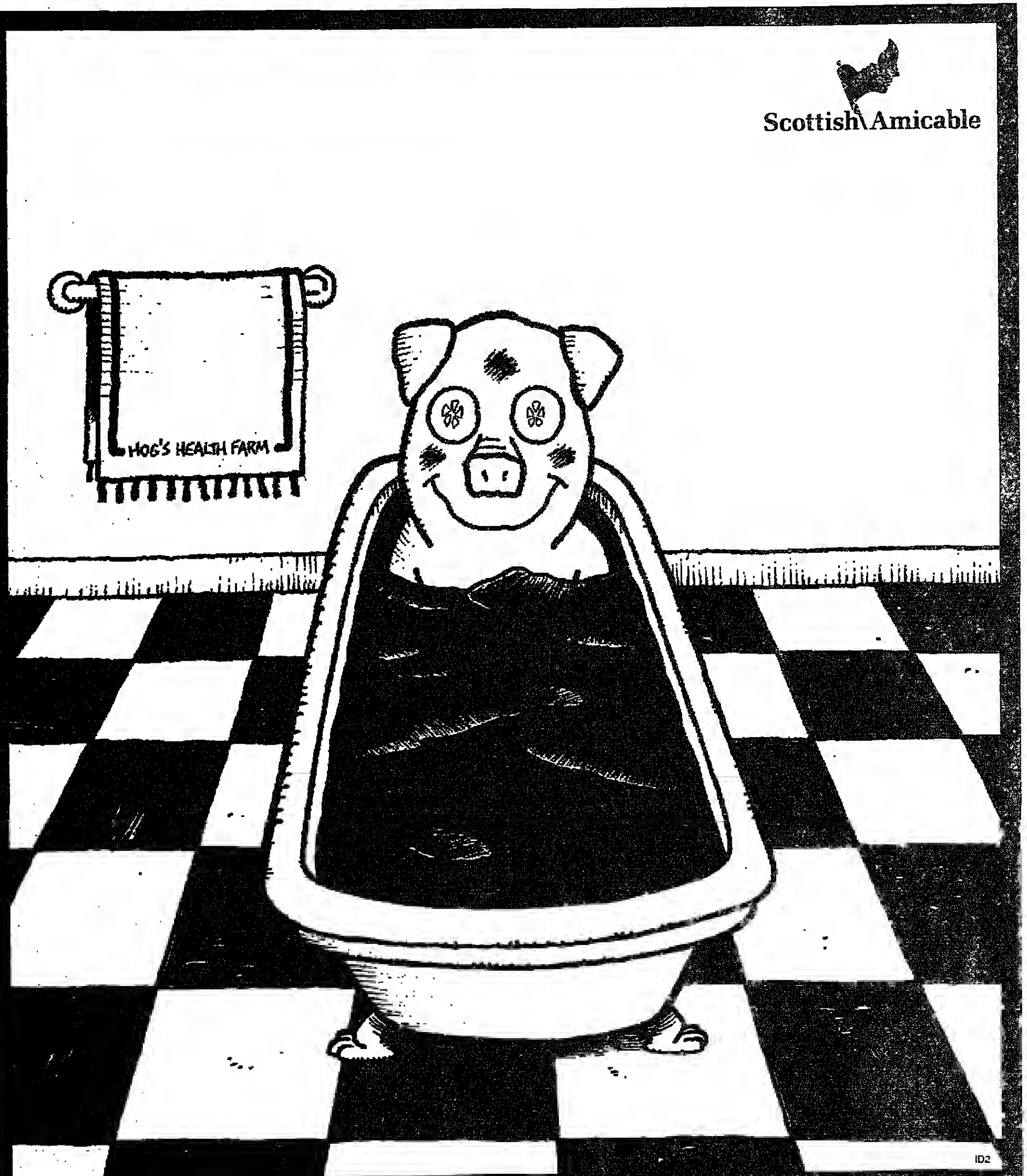
In Hengyang city, also in Hunan, thousands of sales staff of direct-selling firms attacked and killed four of the scheme's managers, officials told Reuters.

In Hunan's Pingtang town, police rescued six employees of direct-selling firms who had been held hostage by about 3,000 angry sales staff, the officials said.

The scale of the pyramid selling scams has only emerged very recently, but now that the ban has been implemented, China's state-controlled press is giving fairly extensive coverage to the problem.

In Hunan province alone, over 60 illegal firms have now shut down and direct-sales companies had laid off 60,000 of 180,000 sales staff, the *People's Daily* said on Monday. More than 42m yuan (£3.2m) had been returned to sales agents, the newspaper claimed.

The ban also applies to the big US direct-selling firms, such as Avon Products, Amway, and Mary Kay Cosmetics, which have spent a large amount of money setting up vast direct-sales networks in China. Washington is now insisting that this is a breach of World Trade Organisation rules, and wants Peking to be more selective in deciding which firms are covered by the new rules.



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America lags in cutting greenhouse gases,  
writes **David Usborne** in New York

Several obstacles still have to be overcome, however, before the treaty, negotiated at an international conference in Kyoto, Japan, last December, will become reality. Among those are

The treaty commits signatory countries to reduce their combined emissions of six key heat-trapping greenhouse gases by at least 5 per cent by the period 2008-2012. Emission levels of the three most important gases, carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, will be measured against a base year of 1990. As well as the 15 EU mem-

EU will find it more difficult to

Scientists estimate that if the Kyoto protocol should fail and no provision be abandoned, heating trapping gas emissions would grow by 29 per cent by 2010.

from 1984, Hudson's 1984 sales of 100,000 300-cc motorcycles in Germany, 100,000 400-cc bikes in France, 100,000 400-cc bikes in the U.S. and 100,000 400-cc bikes in Italy. Each month is a record. The company's 1984 sales are all record shapes.







# Designs on the north

Nonie Niesewand sets her sights on the new extension at the Tate Liverpool and Britain's biggest ever exhibition

A SINKING ship, "SOS" by American artist Mark Dion, is a bold way to dramatise the new top-floor sculpture gallery by Michael Wilford Associates at the Tate in Liverpool, which re-opens on 23 May. The show is part of arttranspennine98, an exhibition of international contemporary visual art spanning 120 miles of the Pennines, from Liverpool to Hull. Heavy with symbolism about the closure of the dockyards, "SOS" makes the connection between regional history, the maritime architecture of the city and the Tate building, originally a 19th-century rum warehouse, according to Lewis Biggs, director of the Tate Liverpool and curator of the Pennine extravaganza.

Biggs doesn't think small. This exhibition links 40 sites across the Pennine Way (see below) with international modern artists, who, over the past three years, have familiarised themselves with the region's food and football, pubs and parks, people and press. Then, they revitalise the redundant industrial sites with modern art. It is a story of our times. Vast factories which once housed industrial workers or warehouses by the docks are brought back to life as galleries. And they make brilliant galleries with the right architectural intervention.

The Tate Liverpool is a success story. With its stone floors, brick-vaulted walls and iron columns, the conversion in 1984 by James Stirling with Michael Wilford drew such big crowds that they have had to expand beneath the original ironwork roof. The gallery closed for more than a year while Wilford worked on the extension.

Wilford wears a purple shirt with a red-and-black spotted tie as he outlines the final phases of the new sculpture gallery with its iron colonnades and blue and orange metal painted facade. The trouble with being in the slipstream of a giant such as Stirling is that everyone thinks the original Tate conversion was typical of Stirling's formalist, monumental genius. But the orange, sickle-moon-shaped bar, with a round blue bar at its core, is pure Wilford.

Wilford loves colour. He arranges bold geometric buildings on site like an abstract painter, shifting blocks of colour and collaging simple geometric forms within the fabric of buildings. Sometimes he refers to his buildings as layered cakes. The British Embassy in Berlin, for example, due to open in 2002, is a bit of a Battenberg cake in purple and blue. Sandwiched between an old peoples' home and a hotel on a historic Reichstag site, it is controlled by a town planner obsessed by historicism and 18th-century street elevations.

But Wilford loves that challenge. Peeking through the rigorously geometric and neo-classical stone facade are strange, abstract, colourful, metal buildings. The ambassadors suite is a smoky glass rectangle.



Contrasts: The new sculpture gallery at the Tate Liverpool, Richard Long's 'Small White Pebble Circles' (foreground) and Richard Deacon's 'This, That and The Other' (behind). On the right is a cleaner's trolley. Photograph: Tom Pilston

the entrance a silver cog, and conferences take place in a purple cylinder. But there is nothing playhouse about his primal forms. Refreshingly simple in appearance, it is hi-tech, smart architecture inside.

In the six years since Stirling died, Wilford has established a separate identity, acknowledged last year when he won the Stirling Prize. "I was surprised at first, then elated. Surprised, because I didn't think they would give the prize to the partner with the same name as the practice."

Many would not recognise Stirling's influence in Wilford's new work. His sandcastle-like Lowry Centre on the tip of Salford Quays is strong enough to stand up to Daniel Libeskind's fragmented, glass shard-like proposal for a war museum next door. At Bilbau, his railway station links with Norman Foster's Metro and is shadowed by Frank Gehry's Guggenheim, yet it is not dwarfed.

Wilford is shortlisted for the Scottish Parliament. "We're not formulaic architects. So you can't predict a rotunda chamber, though I know that Devar wants it designed in such a way as to not encourage adversarial debate. The challenge is to make a forum that encourages lively debate." Naturally, he has inspected the controversial Holyrood site. "It's an excellent location. Not too low down but overlooked from Salisbury Crags and Calton Hill, a very prominent location on Royal Mile with the potential to be a real anchor." And, as we know from his years with Stirling, Wilford makes a really good anchorman.

## A canvas that stretches from coast to coast

Fifteen million people live inside a new showcase for modern art which follows the Pennine Way

ARTTRANSPENNINE98 has a suitably stretched name for a modern art exhibition that runs east to west across 120 miles of the Pennine Way. More than 50 artists from 15 countries made new work for different locations after exploring the area.

At a disused colliery in Greater Manchester, German sculptor Ulrich Ruckriem planted vast stone slabs like Stonehenge. Their windbreak is a row of terraced houses, but they overlook a dizzying view of the Pennines. It is a permanent installation and Ruckriem hopes residents will picnic there. Just as the Angel of the North has its adjacent pub of the same name in Gateshead this sculpture — and all the others — will probably spawn a whole new tourist industry. Already, bus trips are being planned to take art lovers to the 40 sites.

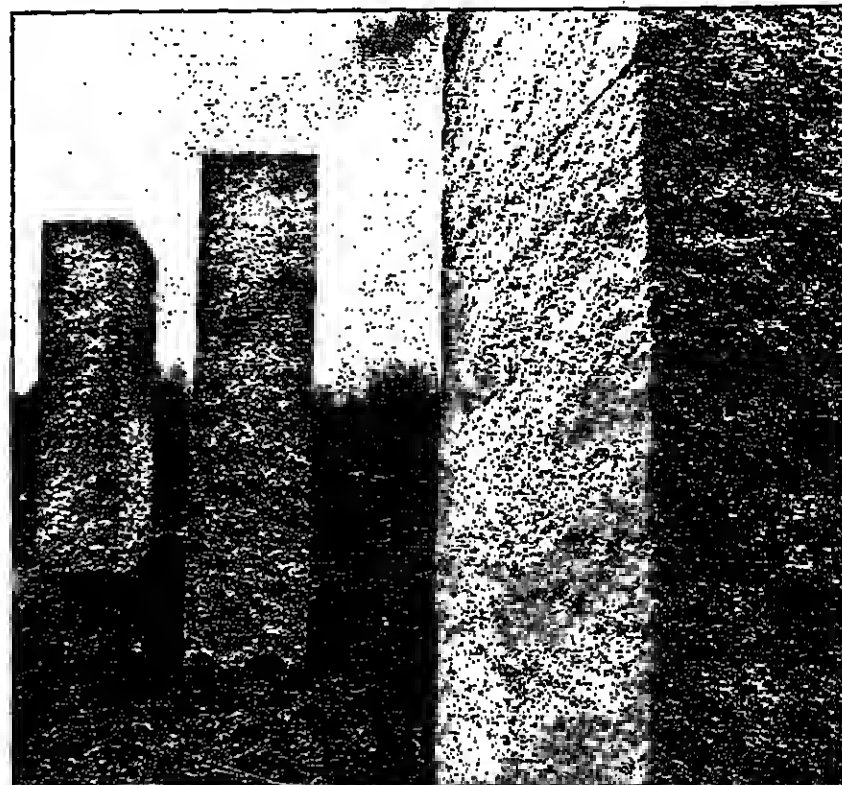
Some are outdoors, like the walled fruit garden at the Storey Gallery in Lancaster by American artist Mark Dion. Others are installations in galleries or ruined medieval chapels. A permanent monument to Joseph

Beuys opens in Leeds city centre and a double-decker mobile home will be parked inside the Henry Moore Institute by Dutch artist Atelier van Lieshout.

The biggest exhibition ever to open in Britain, it covers an area bigger than Belgium. Fifteen million people live in it. But more interesting is the new style of art curatorship pioneered by Lewis Biggs of the Tate Liverpool with Robert Hopper of the Henry Moore Institute and £1.7million lottery funding from the Arts Council. By mixing with the locals, the artists have addressed their fears and hopes, their history and culture. It is a whole new concept of urban regeneration.

ARTTRANSPENNINE98 runs from 23 May to 16 August. The catalogue is published tomorrow, including information about all the artists and the venues. It costs £3 from arttranspennine 98, Duce House, Duce Street, Manchester M1 2JW. For recorded information, call 0161 950 3523.

Nonie Niesewand Symbols: Ulrich Ruckriem's stones at an old Manchester colliery Tom Pilston



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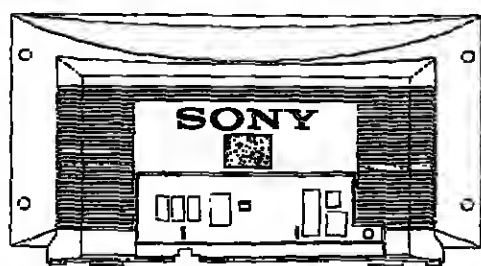
This notice is important to everyone using the following Sony television set which was introduced to the market in autumn 1997:

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KV-28FD1E: view from the rear side

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### DILEMMAS

## At 46, am I too old for a job?



VIRGINIA IRONSIDE

WHEN I used to work on a women's magazine there was a very old lady called Violet in the letter-answering department. She used to totter in at 10am, fall asleep at her desk, eat her sandwiches, have another little snooze, and spend the last couple of hours looking vacantly out of the window.

This was a woman who had lied about her age — by some 15 years — and although it was quite humane of the company to allow her to use the office as an old people's home, it was extremely irritating for the others who had to do her work. It was also irritating to the unknown person who could have done with her job had she retired, and probably stressful for Violet herself who would have been better treated and more comfortable in a retirement home.

I'm not saying that Kate might end up like this, but lying is always a dangerous way to start anything, particularly a new job, and she might well get

Kate is 46 and her job applications have met with rejections or silences. She feels her age works against her. Should she lie about her age as she looks quite young?

found out and face instant dismissal. If she didn't get caught out at her medical, she'd get trapped when she joined the firm's pension plan. And let's say it was just a tiny firm she joined, and she wasn't found out, every time another crow's foot arrived, or a breast sagged or a tooth went yellow she'd be panicking that someone would catch on.

And, anyway, how many years should she take off? She's a woman in her forties, and to get down to her thirties she'd have to take a fair whack off to get to 38 (39 sounds too near 40). And if she's just thinking of taking a few years off, does she really think that reducing her age to 44 from 47 is going to make any difference at all? If she looks as young as she says why doesn't she just take her age off her CV altogether, leap into interviews all glossy and youthful and let her potential employers make up their own minds about her age until they ask?

What Kate doesn't seem to

realise is that even young people send off CVs and get nothing but silence and rejection in return. Everyone is finding it hard to get jobs these days, and it is not uncommon to send off 500 job applications before you even get an interview. Is Kate blaming her age for a phenomenon that is actually universal? Indeed, there is more positive discrimination in favour of age now than in the past, as companies are realising that experience, reliability, and maturity are qualities to be cherished not dismissed.

Is Kate applying for the right jobs? If she is applying for jobs which involve editing the rock-gossip column on a teenage magazine or the role of child gymnast, obviously she's going to get a rejection at 46. Similarly, someone of 20 will get the thumbs down if they apply for jobs which require experience, like the deputy head of a school, or matron of a halfway house for addicts.

At a time when even graduates dripping with double-firsts, crawling with MAs, even those who have edited the university newspaper, and been head of the student's union, when even these find they have to wait six months to get a job, someone of 46, who is no longer a spring chicken, may well find they have to wait at least a year before they can find another job.

Kate should keep applying, keep waiting, keep hoping, and eventually she should be lucky.

Kate should realise several companies do searches, such as Reports Direct, which runs a CV validation service, including address and census validation, employment record, exam results... Re-interpreting your career is one thing, but the moral and legal implications (including instant dismissal) are not to be treated lightly.

Julia Drum

Like Kate, I am 46. I have been seeking work since last summer and have had no success despite having two degrees. I have little doubt that ageism is a cause. Kate would be very foolish to lie about her age as this would be found out in any pension arrangements. She should try to use informal contacts to find, or even create, a job in a

smaller firm or in a contract role. Frederick R Stansfield

My advice to Kate is don't. It can lead to embarrassment, as happened to me when stating my age as 45 instead of 47. I was very red-faced when asked to produce my birth certificate for the pension scheme. J Gordon

Under no circumstances should Kate lie about anything on her CV. She will be quickly found out and branded as dishonest. But that does not mean that facts of which Kate may be less keen should be trumpeted at the top of her CV. I speak from experience, having retrained in computers and gained a full-time position at 56. Clive Chaney

### NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

Dear Virginia, I live with my boyfriend and we are very happy together. But I have recently been talking to people on the Internet and meeting people on e-mail, and one man in particular has become particularly friendly. He has a great sense of humour and I really enjoy chatting to him, and we've started to become quite intimate, exchanging kisses and hugs and even more. I think about him a lot, but would never be unfaithful, but am I betraying my boyfriend by having this relationship, even though this man and I will never meet in real life?

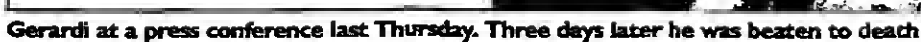
Yours, Angela

Letters are welcome, and everyone who has a suggestion quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interflora. Send comments and suggestions to Virginia Ironside at the Features Department, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (fax 0171-293 2182), by Tuesday morning. If you have a dilemma of your own that you would like to share, please let me know.



In Guatemala the Church could provide no sanctuary, no safe haven and no protection. Killing after killing robbed the diocese of priests and pastoral agents. It was with the heaviest of hearts that, in 1980, Gerardi took the unprecedented step

I recall his pain when he spoke in 1985 of his hopes to set up a national human rights office. His efforts faltered, not for want of enthusiasm, but because he knew that anyone employed in such work would be signing their own death warrant. In 1989, however, the Archbishop of Guatemala, Prospero Penabaz, entrusted to him the task of setting up the Archdiocesan Human Rights Office and it was



Gerardi plugged himself with enthusiasm into his task. Teams of researchers trav-

On Friday 24 April the findings of the REMHI project were published. Two days later,

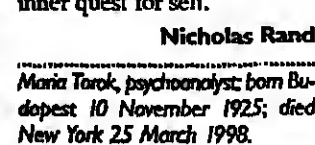
**Clare Dixon**

Juan José Gerardi Canedera, priest: born Guatemala City 27 December 1922; ordained priest 1946; Bishop of Verapaces 1967-73; Bishop of El Quiché 1973-84; Auxiliary Bishop of Guatemala City 1984-98; died Guatemala City 26 April 1998.

In 1963, before feminist critiques of Freud, Throk rejected the Freudian concept of penis envy on clinical grounds. She argued that, if it exists at all, pe-

The bulk of their work deals with how best to understand the devastation of trauma. Their investigation of the traumas that block the spontaneous work of self-transformation or "introjection" propelled them towards the discovery of new psychic and linguistic structures. These include the illness of "mourning," or "the crypt," the removal of unwanted, shameful, untoward or unbearable realities to an inaccessible "psychic tomb," "incorporation," the secret embrace of an alien identity, and the "transgenerational phantom," the unwitting transmission of family secrets to our descendants. The discovery of these sources of psychic turmoil stemmed from Abraham and

## Torolc work on trauma



**David Marr**  
Margaret Withycombe, sculptor:  
born St Albans, Hertfordshire 24  
May 1903; married 1932 Dr Thomas  
Garland (three sons, two daughters,  
and one son deceased; marriage dis-  
solved); died Oxford 17 April 1998.

**Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister**



# THE INDEPENDENT

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## After the horror, the humbug

"JOURNALISM'S job is to shed light on life's darker side."

This is the justification offered by Peter Stothard, editor of *The Times*, for his decision to publish a serialisation of *Crimes Unheard*, Gitta Sereny's book about the child murderer Mary Bell. Most journalists would support his grand mission statement, though it certainly isn't journalism's only job. The life of Mary Bell is certainly dark and her deeds horrible – but true public-interest justification would require its telling to give us new information, to help stop such crimes in the future. Simply staring at villainous is corrupting, not courageous.

Reading the first instalment one cannot escape the feeling that this exercise in illuminating the shadows reveals plenty of detail but no really new outlines or valuable evidence in a grim story that is familiar already. "Those to whom evil is done do evil in return." Cycles of childhood abuse and cruelty are repeated endlessly. The question is whether the new information changes our minds in any way important enough to justify the hurt it has caused the relatives of the victims and may yet cause Mary Bell herself.

For these purposes the extracts published yesterday are the only relevant ones. The later story, of her manipulative habits in remand homes and prisons covers the time after she was convicted of the murder of two toddlers. They may tell us that the treatment of young killers was crude and made their lives worse; but anyone interested in penal issues knows that. Do we learn anything essential or new about Mary Bell's motives for killing? Not yet.

We are told, for example, that when Mary Bell was a baby she "accidentally" ate some pills. This happened on three occasions. Each time she was almost killed. It is possible that her mother had such pathological tendencies towards her daughter that she made her eat the overdose, deceiving her that the drugs were sweets. Of course this is shocking. But we cannot be sure that it was true. Even if it were, it might be unwise to make a connection between these events and Mary's later crimes (at what age did she come to realise that her own mother may have tried to poison her?). But, most importantly, as Gitta Sereny herself admits, most of these stories were first published in her earlier book, *The Case of Mary Bell*, as long ago as 1972.

But there is another, more significant, set of revelations, described by *The Times* on its front page with the banner "My prostitute mother constantly abused me, says Mary Bell". The allegation is that Mary Bell subjected her daughter to sexual abuse by some of her clients. This occurred when Mary was perhaps five years old. This is also, of course, a harrowing story. Whilst we have no reason to doubt what Mary Bell said and we accept that she repeated the details in separate interview sessions, it still remains her side of the story. And Gitta Sereny mentions evidence that might cast doubt on that story. Even so there is no doubt that Mary Bell was, as her biographer says, a "horribly damaged child" by the time she came to commit her terrible crimes.

So that is the side of it. A child who was probably abused herself went on to murder other children. This is the banality that lies at the heart of such appalling evil. The details are unpleasant but are also liable to dispute and do not necessarily prove anything. This is especially true if we reflect on how rare these child murderers are – far rarer than, say, predatory paedophiles, although there are very few of them too. None of this is to argue that Gitta Sereny was wrong to write this book. She is a distinguished writer. She has long had an interest in this case. She did not just do it for the money, although the indirect result, a payment of any sum to Mary Bell, is distasteful. It runs against the spirit if not the letter of the code of practice of the Press Complaints Commission. The Home Secretary, Jack Straw, is right to see if the law can be changed to prevent this kind of profiting from crime.

Even if the work had been written by a less competent author and the financial arrangements had been more mercenary we could not suggest banning it. The biggest fault lies in the profile given to it thanks to the hype it has received in the media, and we find Mr Stothard's defence disingenuous. People talk about stories being "whipped up by the media" and this is a classic: a book bought to boost circulation (let's have no humbug about that) creates a media storm and leads to tabloid pursuit. Gitta Sereny and Mr Stothard cannot avoid their role in what now follows. We ask again, is it worth it?

Again and again *The Times* assures us that "only by trying to understand what could conceivably have driven an 11-year-old girl to kill two small boys who trusted her can we come any closer to stopping these crimes... It is the very sensitivity of the issue that makes the duty of the journalist plain".

So far we have learnt nothing from the book that would stop such crimes happening. We know abuse causes abuse. But even if we had, that doesn't make newspaper excavation a public good. We can only call in evidence this conversation between subject and author reported in *The Times*: "After all," she smiled a little crookedly, "once you get through with me, there won't be much left for anybody to ask: will there?" I tried to disabuse her of this optimism. Newspapers, I told her, are a very different medium from a book, with a different readership and reporters would always find questions to ask."

Too right. The wave of public revulsion about "blood money" and the rest has, in this post-Bulger world, had the predictable effect – *The Sun* has found where Mary Bell lives and a lynch mob will shortly be on its way.

Thus a book bought to boost sales will provide the excuse for further media ruthlessness. The newspaper that publishes her new name and address will be breaking the law. It will be punished severely by the authorities. But it will also be handsomely rewarded in extra sales and profits. Ms Bell may well have been able to make off with a few thousand pounds (the sum is disputed) for her trouble, but she may well soon know how Sidney Cooke feels. Of course she was a little naïve. But with all this hurt being revisited on all those involved in the case – now including Mary Bell's own daughter, aged 12 – we wonder whether the very marginal improvement of our understanding of an extremely rare kind of crime is really justified.

In an apology yesterday Mr Stothard spent as much time attacking the editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, Charles Moore, as he did defending his own actions. This was telling. He accused Mr Moore of losing his nerve when the *Telegraph* was offered first refusal on the serialisation and turned it down. But Mr Moore was right not to get involved. Mr Stothard's newspaper has indulged in humbug. He has served no great public interest and has added to private grief. It is enough for journalists to leave some dark corners dark.

## BLAIR'S POWERS OF RECOGNITION BEGIN TO FAIL HIM.....



## LETTERS

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number  
Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

### 'Paedophile art'

MARGARET KENNEDY'S intemperate attack on Eric Gill's Stations of the Cross in Westminster Cathedral (Comment, 29 April) evidently issues from great personal suffering, but the logic of her argument would strip the walls of every great church in Christendom. If it were indeed true that "art cannot serve spiritual needs when it has been created in sin," there would be no religious art whatever. A retrospective purge of all religious art produced by adulterers and seducers, wife-beaters and exploiters of the poor would result in a bonfire of the vanities which would make Savonarola look like the chairman of the Arts Council.

We may cherish the ideal of the devout monk painter producing his work in prayer and meditation, but in fact only one Western artist has ever been beatified, and many of our greatest religious artists have been spectacularly unholily human beings. Gesualdo was a murderer. Byrd exploited his position as an Elizabethan court favourite for financial gain, while his fellow Catholics were tortured and executed in the name of the queen he served. Yet both men wrote sublime religious music, and ironically, Byrd's most haunting works are lamentations for the persecution of God's people.

Fortunately, great art transcends the limitations of the human beings who make it. Gill's magnificent and moving carvings are indeed the work of a paedophile, but that does not make them "paedophile art". That so flawed a human being could produce so pure a celebration of the story of redemption is part of the mystery of grace, which can draw glory even from "the foul rag and bone shop of the heart".

EAMON DUFFY  
Reader in Church History in the University of Cambridge  
Magdalene College, Cambridge

LET him among you that is without sin, cast down the first Station.  
IAN HURDLEY  
Bury, Lancashire

YOUR editorial on paedophiles (27 April) was as irresponsible as it

was inaccurate. Your suggestion that the Government has been slow to act in this area is baffling. Only weeks after last May's election we implemented the Sex Offenders Act establishing a register of sex offenders and ensured that the police were told of any change of name and address.

Also, in the Crime and Disorder Bill now passing through Parliament we are extending the supervision in the community of those released from prison and creating a new Sex Offender Order to restrain the activity of known paedophiles. This new order will enable the police to control the movements of dangerous men such as Robert Oliver and Sidney Cooke who, because of a legal loophole which exists for those sentenced before 1992, have been released from prison without this sort of oversight.

We are also urgently exploring the possibility of new indeterminate sentences to ensure that serious sex offenders are not released from prison until it is safe to do so. You might suggest that this can be achieved without careful consideration. But if it is to be effective we need to get it right.

We share the genuine concern of those who feel angry at the inadequacy of present arrangements to deal with people like Cooke and Oliver. But pandering to vigilantism and law-breaking, as your editorial did, can only succeed in driving paedophiles underground making it more difficult for the police and others to tackle the problem.

ALAN MICHAEL  
Minister of State  
Home Office

RARELY have I been so shocked by an editorial as by yours on the question of what to do with "dangerous paedophiles" (27 April). You seem to confuse paedophiles with convicted child-murderers. They are not interchangeable categories. Convicted child-murderers ought, quite obvi-

ously, to be kept isolated, presumably in hospitals rather than prisons.

You glibly call for philosophical objections to imprisoning potentially dangerous individuals to be "swept aside". You are calling for people to be jailed not for what they do, but what they are. We need to remember Pastor Niemöller's oft-quoted remarks: first the state imprisons those none of whose characteristics one shares, but it finally ends up imprisoning all and sundry at its sole whim. In the 1930s it was the Jews and the Gypsies, then the Communists, then all democrats in general. Shall we, in the 1990s, begin with the paedophiles?

JEFFREY KAPLOW  
London SE3

### Disruptive pupils

MARGARET HODGE proposes penalties for schools that exclude children for disruptive and unruly behaviour ("Blair's plan to rescue the lost generation of boys", 27 April).

I am a governor of a comprehensive school with a catchment area which includes substantial areas of high social deprivation. Over half the pupils on entry to this school had a reading age of 9.5 or less. A few pupils are permanently excluded each year from this school but in return it does accept some who have been excluded from other schools and who may respond to a fresh start.

Does Margaret Hodge understand the real difficulties that a few disruptive and disturbed pupils create, day after day? The record for one 15-year-old boy lists 85 separate incidents during the first two terms of this school year, including persistent lateness, truancy, rudeness, swearing, disruption of classes. At the end of the second term he was excluded for 10 days after physically assaulting a teacher and warned that

he was in danger of permanent exclusion. During the first week after readmission, despite having accepted a contract setting out what was expected of him, he resumed his disruptive behaviour.

The time taken by staff in dealing with pupils such as this means there is less time for them to spend on the majority of pupils, who do not deserve to have their teaching disrupted. These very difficult pupils need professional help, but it is quite unreasonable to expect this to be provided by mainstream schools.

ANGELA CRUM EWING  
Reading, Berkshire

### Goya and the restorers

IT IS very disturbing that part of Goya's testimony against picture restorations should have migrated from the Spanish royal archives to a Sotheby's sale in London ("Auction of Goya's royal treasures", 25 April).

Professor Nigel Glendinning has performed 'invaluable service' in drawing attention to Goya's protest that "Time destroys only one painting per century whereas restorers destroy a hundred." His suggestion, however, that Goya was motivated by a desire to keep restoration work within his own gift seems unjust.

In a letter – hopefully, still to be found in the archives – of 2 Jan 1801, Goya argued against all attempts to "restore" paintings to their supposed original conditions: "The more one retouches paintings on the pretext of preserving them the more they are destroyed, and that even the original artists, if they were alive, now could not retouch them perfectly because of the aged tone given the colours by time, who is also a painter according to the maxim and observation of the learned."

MICHAEL DALEY  
Arwath UK  
East Barnet, Hertfordshire

### Worsthorne's nation

PEREGRINE WORSTHORNE'S conversion to a multi-racial Britain (Comment, 28 April) is both impressive and mildly comic.

It hasn't occurred to him that asking the pupils in the Hampstead comprehensive he visited "what nationality they believed themselves to be" would cause a stir, not because the question is fudged in history lessons, but because it would be as ridiculous as if asked of himself.

Nationalism only needs to be inculcated in societies which are insecure about it, such as, apparently, the United States. Surely not in Hampstead. Tell us, Sir Peregrine, what nationality do you believe yourself to be a member of? The only proper answer is, "Why do you ask?"

PAUL POTTS  
Yeovil, Somerset

### Lying CVs

I WAS appalled by Helen Jones's encouragement to lie on CVs ("Time to clean up your CV", 23 April). Recently I have talked to employers in the Teesside area for a survey. Many said they would short-list ten to fifteen apparently excellent respondents to job advertisements, only to find out during interviews that a substantial number failed to live up to the promise of their CVs. Needless to say, these people did not get offers.

I would always advise employers to check a sample of claims on CVs, and to seriously consider dismissing anyone recruited on the basis of what were later proved to be false pretences.

IAN D PEARCE  
Great Ayton, North Yorkshire

### Parking and shopping

YOU REFER (report, 29 April) to the "plague" of parking space in London. How are Londoners supposed to buy things? Not in out-of-town supermarkets, which have been declared ideologically unsound; nor in town either, it now appears. Have any of the Prescott tendency ever tried lugging a week's food shopping or a flat-pack wardrobe home on a bus?

YVY HOPE-SCOTT  
Twickenham, Middlesex

## Biting topical satire from the grand new Dukes of York



MILES KINGTON

WHEN WE are children, we learn children's rhymes, make them up and chant them, and when we grow up we forget all about them. But the children who are our children go on learning them and chanting them and making up new ones, out of our hearing, and I have recently spent some time creeping around school playgrounds, and talking to children, to find out what today's rhymes are like.

The surprise is that many of them are very topical. Well, I suppose this isn't too surprising, because rhymes about the Grand Old Duke of York and Jack Horner were topical once, but I wasn't expecting to come across so many up-to-date ones. Take this for example:—

Oh, I am a gnome.  
And I live in a Dome.  
And my name is Peter Mandelson.  
And you can come

And visit my Dome  
If it's ready by 2001...!

Mandelson crops up in quite a few rhymes I have come across, for instance:—  
Peter, Peter Mandelson  
Had an early bed for the Millennium  
Didn't wake up till a quarter past one  
Poor old Peter Mandelson.

Here is a skipping rhyme, from London:—  
One graffiti, two graffiti.  
Four graffiti, eight.  
Do some more graffiti  
And end up in the Tue.

Not all of these new rhymes are about politicians. Take this one, for example.  
People's princess,  
Where have you been?

Now you're on a packet  
Of margarine!

And this one:—  
Branson went by Virgin Air  
Didn't get him anywhere.  
Branson went by Virgin Train  
But the train was late again.  
Branson had a big balloon  
But the balloon took off too soon  
Now he wants to be hairy toff—  
Come on Branson! Knock it off!

Here are another two short ones selected at random from many:—  
Hello Hello Magazine!  
Come and view my wedding scene!  
Come and snap my nuptial fun—  
Watch me take the money and run!

And this one, which must be of quite recent origin:—

"I will be the world's best mayor!"  
said little Jeffrey-Head-In-Air.  
"Oh, but how can we be sure?"  
You've never told the truth before!"

Love and marriage have always been treated sceptically in children's rhymes, and this new one is no exception:—  
Gaynor, Gaynor,  
Bought new trainers  
And off like lightning she took  
There came a little man  
So she ran and ran and ran—  
But now she's Mrs Cook.

Death, too, is fair game to children:—  
I went to the doctor,  
Showed him my bruise  
He said, "You'll have to  
Join the queues."  
I joined a queue  
And started to sneeze

Because people in queues  
Spread disease,  
And when I arrived  
At the head of the queue  
The doctor said,  
No, I can't cure you.  
You've got HIV  
You've got CID  
You've got NSU  
And I think you've got ME.  
So don't go to a doctor  
With letters after his name  
You'll catch all the letters  
And die just the same.

More tomorrow, I hope. Here's a taster:—

My name is Mo Al Fayed,  
I'm open to all suggestions.  
I've got a big Giro in Cairo  
And I pay cash for questions!



## The euro has finally arrived, but who's to be in charge of it?

**RUPERT CORNWELL**  
**A CHOICE OF BANKERS**

THIS, then, is it. No more ifs, buts and maybes, but pure, unadorned history. The 15 leaders of the European Union, gathered in Luxembourg this weekend, to name the founder members of the euro, and the exchange rates at which they will lock their currencies together, supposedly for ever. Nothing since the very foundation of the European Community in 1957 can match it. Alas, there is one small snag: a struggle between France and Germany, played out through the prism of the new European Central Bank, for the future economic management of Europe. And right now, the French look the likely winners.

First, a recap for readers who haven't closely followed the plot. The ECB will be the most powerful supra-national institution in Europe, and it was long taken for granted that its first president – and thus the EU's most powerful official – would be Wim Duisenberg, former governor of the Dutch central bank and championed by Germany, the biggest economic power of the EU, as a guarantee that the currency managed by the future central bank will be as good as the D-Mark. But last autumn the French threw a spanner into the works by nominating their own candidate, Jean-Claude Trichet, the governor of the Bank of France. Despite the good offices of Tony Blair, who chairs the summit, the dispute as of last night was unresolved.

Now, like any Euro-dispute worth its salt, this one plays on several levels. We may enjoy the political arm-wrestling between two enfeebled politicians – in this case a deeply unpopular German chancellor who must defend German interests to the hilt if he is to retain power at next September's elections, and a French president who threw away much of his power last May by calling unnecessary Parliamentary elections and losing them. At another level, it is another chapter in a long feud between the Dutch and the French over matters European. Most deeply however, the contest for the bank presidency is metaphor for an almost philosophical argument, pitting Gallic interventionism against the German belief that bankers know best.

In one sense, the identity of the ECB president is irrelevant. Judged by his track record, Mr Trichet can crack the financial whip with the best of them. True, Mr Duisenberg successfully ran the Dutch central bank for 15 years; but given Holland's place in the German economic orbit, that was little more than operating a branch office of the Bundesbank. The Bank of France however is a different matter, and Mr Trichet has done as much as

anyone to endow his country with the lowest inflation rate (not to mention the third highest jobless rate) in the EU. Given that France is in a minority of one, Mr Trichet is unlikely to prevail. His best bet is probably an informal deal to split the eight-year term with Mr Duisenberg. Conceivably a third, compromise, candidate will emerge. Whatever happens though is unlikely to make much difference to the way the ECB is run. Central bankers are central bankers. Maybe the dispute will be settled this weekend, but failure to do so would be no disaster. Indeed, what better climax to Britain's six months in the European Presidency than a deal at the June EU summit – an accord de Cardiff – struck on good old British soil, setting in place the Euro's first high command. For a country that is shunning the single currency until at least 2002, that's as close to being "at the heart of Europe" as Mr Blair's going to get.

The real struggle for the heart of Europe is between France and Germany. And the ostensible loser looks set to win the war – for the simple reason that monetary union is far too important to be left to bankers alone. Not only is the enterprise itself utterly political, which indeed only makes sense as a precursor of political union; above all, the decisions of the ECB will have a crucial bearing on the supremely political issues of growth and employment. Quite reasonably, the French say the bank must be answerable to some form of political authority, and insist that participants in the Euro must harmonise their economic policy, if monetary union is to work properly. And one way or another, they will have their wish.

At the insistence of the Germans, the ECB has been modelled on the Bundesbank. Like the Bundesbank, its defining task is to "maintain price stability", with no mention of fostering growth. But the huge power and prestige of the Bundesbank reflect the peculiarity of a Germany hobbled by its history, whose national pride lies not in military or cultural achievement – but in a currency that has only existed 50 years. So, unchallenged and virtually unscrutinised, the Bundesbank reigns. Now that may be fine for Germany (though a record jobless rate of 12 per cent makes one wonder, for how much longer). But for Europe?

I would wager two things. First, that the European parliament sooner or later wins the power to monitor the ECB, as Congress monitors the Federal Reserve. Secondly, I am sure that "Euro-X" – the informal club of single currency participants from which Britain to its chagrin is excluded – will develop into some form of political oversight for the ECB. Indeed, this is just the sort of *quid pro quo* France will demand for a withdrawal of the candidacy of Mr Trichet. By such dealings does Europe advance.

But does this matter for us? Of course it does. For the moment we "pre-ins" sit on the sidelines, miffed by our exclusion from "Euro-X", but consoling ourselves by adding the row over the presidency to all the economic arguments why the single currency is bound to come apart at the seams. But once again Britain is in danger of underestimating Europe's political will that, by hook, crook – or more probably fudge – monetary union be made to work. So, come 2002 or 2003, we will join, forced as in 1973 to accept rules of a club that others have set. History will be made this weekend. The tragedy is that Britain could have been making it too.

## Where have all the Tories gone – they've left the scene one by one

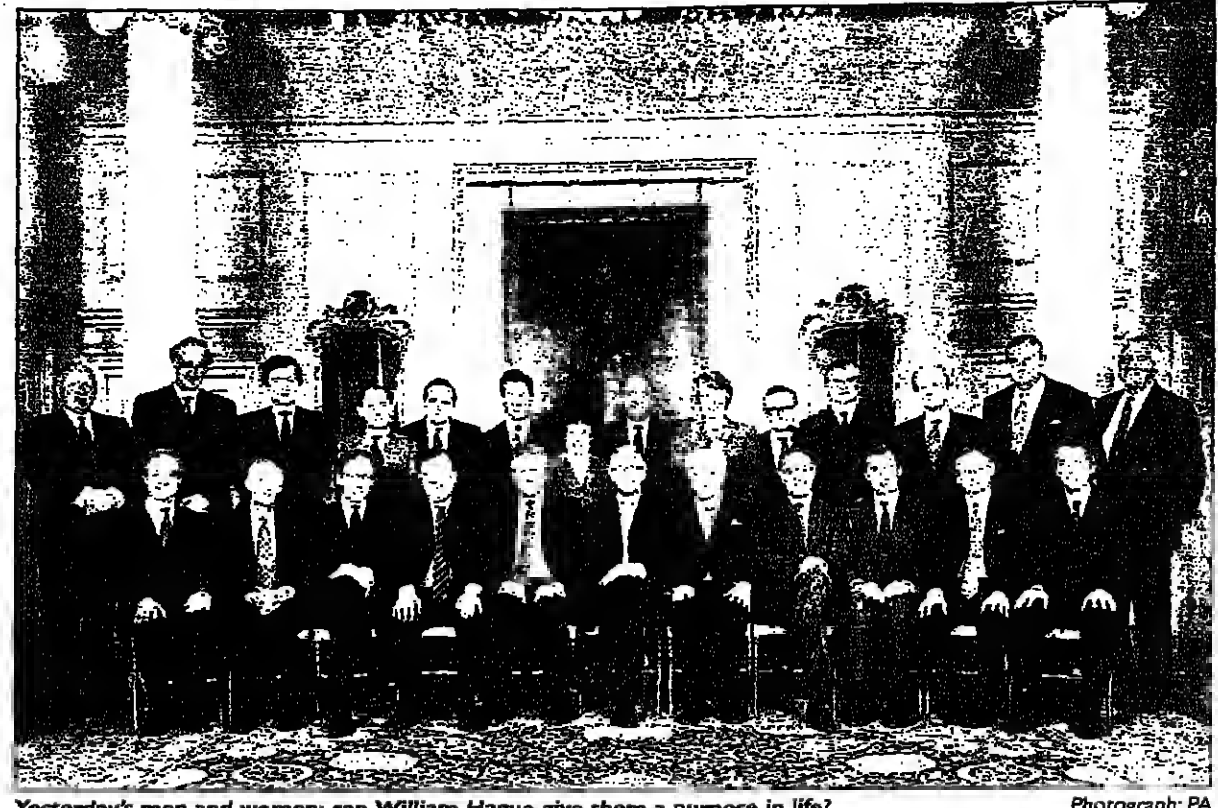
**ANNE McELVOY**  
**ON HAGUE'S BIG PROBLEM**

ON A walking holiday in the Dales, a friend noticed that William Hague was due to speak locally. He wandered in and listened to the youthful bald one rallying the despondent troops of North Yorkshire. At the end of the meeting, Mr Hague headed straight for him and said jovially, "Hello, what are you doing here then? You don't look like a Tory." I ought to explain that my friend bears no resemblance to Swampy. Body-piercing is not his thing. He shaves. He wears neat clothes. He is downright fastidious about his haircut.

Yet Mr Hague spotted him from fifty paces as too much of a normal bloke to be a Tory. The really bad omen for Mr Hague is that we know instinctively what he meant by this comment. It recognises that there is a limited type of person who is likely to be an active Conservative – we can all make up the categories, old ladies in tweeds and high dudgeon, prematurely old young men who smoke cigars and marry into the neighbouring dynasty, matrons singing "Rule Britannia" at the slightest provocation.

When the Labour Party was this prone to caricature – whippets, cloth caps and composite motions – it was in deep trouble. A successful political party should have in its ranks a representative spread of human types. Even under Margaret Thatcher, the most ideological of Tory leaders, the party at large was heterodox. That valuable mantle is now passing to Labour. Once a party becomes identifiable as a rarefied tribe, it is a lost cause.

Yet normal Tories are disappearing steadily from active service. The last few weeks have seen a falling away from the Tory front-line. Stephen Dorrell is giving up, having failed to say a single thing about education anyone (including perhaps Mr Dorrell) can remember. Gillian



Yesterday's men and women: can William Hague give them a purpose in life? Photograph: PA

Shepherd, capable and approachable, is considering going the same way. And with what will Mr Hague repair the hole in his bunker? With Tim Yeo and Ann Widdecombe. The really sad thing is that the party, for want of other options on its depleted benches, has to present this as an exciting renewal. Yet Miss Widdecombe and Mr Yeo are ghosts of John Major's front bench, haunting Mr Hague's future.

The shadow front bench conveys the collective impression of wishing it had a different day job. As shadow to Robin Cook, Michael Howard manages to be sound both mean and ineffectual. Peter Lilley's tendency to attach too much importance to detail is magnified in opposition, with the result that his attacks on Gordon Brown are unfocused. The only consistently impressive performer is Iain Duncan Smith – but his main interest is the economic impact of monetary union, not his Social Security brief. Mr Lilley on the other hand adores the intricacies of benefit reform. The simplest solution would be for him to swap portfolios with Mr Duncan Smith.

Meanwhile, New Labour is erecting a big political tent – and one quite roomy enough to accommodate a lot of mainstream Tories. Chris Patten has been appointed to chair the enquiry into the future of the RUC. In this role he will shore up the peace process and, by extension, Mr

Blair's authority. Yet Tories – other than the fervent Unionists who believed that Mr Patten was insufficiently zealous in their cause when he was Northern Ireland Secretary – can ill complain about the appointment, since they started the peace process in the first place and because they formally support it now.

Mr Patten (who, for the record, is a director of this newspaper) has been hotly targeted by Mr Blair as someone he would like to have as a friend. This is not only because both men share a pragmatic, unhysterical view of how politics

should be conducted. It is key to New Labour's ambition to be seen as the party that manages the country's affairs efficiently and doesn't let ideology get in the way.

To secure this goal, it needs to be on good terms with the sort of Tories, like Mr Patten, whom the public regards as sane and normal. By the same reasoning, Michael Heseltine has been kept on board as a key figure in the development of the Millennium Dome.

The last year has seen that clear, blue water evaporate. The Conservative party used to be staunchly anti-devolution –

now it has accepted that the United Kingdom is not necessarily doomed by the advent of a Scottish Parliament and a Welsh Assembly. It has come to support a mayor for London. Very soon, it will have to address itself to the end of voting rights for hereditary peers.

These are necessary accommodations to the change wrought by the 1997 landslide. But Mr Hague has not yet found a way to resist the impression that he is giving both people and ground to New Labour's sphere of influence without any compensatory gain.

There is a limited type of person who is likely to be an active Conservative

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The last year has seen that clear, blue water evaporate. The Conservative party used to be staunchly anti-devolution –

## Today's discoveries, yesterday's jobs...

**JOHN WALSH**



INVENTION and redundancy are the themes of the week. Every news bulletin has announced some new breakthrough that will benefit mankind. On Monday we read about an anti-bacterial gloop you paint on your teeth, to prevent decay for evermore. Then came news of the Viagra anti-impotence pill that's the hottest prescription item in the United States, and is getting endorsements from newly-priapic 70-year-olds. On Tuesday, *Nature* magazine introduced the gene that predisposes people to lung cancer (and, by extension, a whole family of associated cancer genes which can be isolated and dealt with in the next 30 years). By Tuesday evening, we heard about how grass releases noxious pollutants like ethanol into the atmosphere, and *cui grass* makes it all a hundred times worse, so the best thing environmentally-minded suburbanites can do is never mow their lawn again.

As you consider these stories, it springs to mind that each innovation will theoretically put whole professions, or semi-professions, out of business. Imagine how the £150-an-hour dentists of Britain felt on Monday morning, on learning of the Death of the Filling. (What will they make fortunes out of now? Gold crowns? Scaling-and-polishing? Braces?). Imagine the twinge, somewhere between elation and depression, that assailed cancer specialists on hearing that their labours might be at an end in 25 years' time. Consider the panic meetings of executives from Flymo and Oulcast as they wonder if it's too late to go into a less doomed trade (drugs? wind-

surfers?). Imagine the features departments of *Penthouse* and *Rustler* and the other one-bander magazines (as I believe they're called) as they wrestle with the conundrum: if the readers can now get erections on bloody prescription, what are we paying all these expensive, unclad young women for? (And what else do we put in the magazine?).

Unexpected redundancies have broken out in unexpected places. Wine snobs who say "I'll just open the Hironelle to let it breathe," learned that wine does nothing of the sort; and since they generally have nothing else to contribute to oenological learning, they're effectively reduced to silence. The radio carried stories about rival soup kitchens which have become superfluous to the requirements of London's down-and-outs (who are fed up being woken by the sound of vans revving up at 2 am. My dear, the noise. And the soup). How galling to think yourself a warm, caring and kindly sort of person anxious to help the less fortunate, only to find the market's flooded with people like that and you might as well go back to grinding the faces of the poor. One imagines the streets of London soon filling up with retired dentists and lawn-mower executives, grumbling former do-gooders and sex consultants as it once thronged with former dirigible pilots, bustle designers, purveyors of sealing wax and ("Where did I go wrong?") gaiter salesmen.

COLLEEN McCullough, the best-selling Australian novelist, breezed into town this week to sign

copies of *The Song of Troy*, her re-telling of Homer's *Iliad*.

She held court in the living room of Lord Weidenfeld's gorgeous Thames-side pad. Lying on her publisher's sofa, she hitched about the Sydney literary scene and rhapsodised about her home, a thousand miles from the Oz mainland. It's Norfolk Island, a tiny dependent territory of Australia, five miles by three, with a population of British-Polynesian islanders who will never leave it. She spoke of its perfect climate, its slightly excessive political structure ("It's the most over-governed place in the world – I mean, nine MPs for 1,600 people") and how everybody hates the Canberra bureaucrats who are trying to get their hands on the island's oil. Ms McCullough's husband, it turns out, is an islander called Ric Robinson, who's Minister for Trees, Resources, Environment and Garbage. He's descended from the originals, she said, the ones who were shipped there from Pitcairn Island in the 1850s after the Bounty mutiny. Many stayed, but some gradually found their way back to Pitcairn, where they remain. Naturally one asks about the family connection. Of course, she replies. Well, well. How extraordinary to discover that the au-

thor of *The Thorn Birds* is married to a great-great-great-great-grandson of Fletcher Christian.

I PROWLED around a junk fair at the weekend and I came upon a stack of elderly magazines dating from the stunned and rationed years just after the second world war: *John Bull*, *Everybody's Weekly*, *Picture Post*, *Sunday Circle*. I bore them home in triumph and devoured them, as I once used to devour a pile of *Valliant* comics in the summer holidays. Turn the pages of *Cavalade's* issue for the week ending 19 February 1949, and

about the shocking table manners of Pamela (aged two-and-a-half) and passes on household tips ("I wonder if your readers know that dusting is made much easier if you use a piece of flannel which has been soaked in paraffin for several hours..."). The foreign pages express concern about Mr Stalin's Cold War peace offer, and readers write in about Topics of the Day like this: "Surely the absurd sign, 'Ladies cannot be served unless accompanied by a gentleman' should be erased from our public houses. It is not only an insult to British women, but gives the wrong impression to foreign tourists..."

Ab yes, it was a gentler time, more relaxed, less neurotic and without all the media fold-out of the Nineties. But what is this, in the "Cat Out of the Bag" gossip section? A piece about a glamorous international celebrity (Rita Hayworth) and her jaunt around the world with a famous European playboy (Aly Khan). Guess what? Reporters elung to the luckless couple wherever they touched down on their journey. A posse even pursued them in a 70mph night-time chase across Ireland... Aly several times swung off the road and switched on his headlights in order to throw the pursuing cavalcade of cars off the scent. But the reporters turned up in time to photograph the 3am breakfast at Aly's home.

*Cavalade* clucks with disapproval about the way the papers promised to carry no further reports of the romance, but proceeded to do so almost immediately. A curious feeling of *deja vu* sweeps over one.

I wonder if your readers know that dusting is made much easier if you use a piece of flannel which has been soaked in paraffin for several hours

**ONLY 19 DAYS TO GO**

The first GCSE exams are only 19 days away

**Is your child ready?**

Which of the following will turn universal indicator red?

a) Milk of magnesia  
b) Vinegar  
c) Toothpaste

Answer in tomorrow's paper (yesterday's answer was by Gall Bladder)

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To make sure your child is ready, buy **DK Acacia GCSE Revise Chemistry NOW**

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## Legal costs likely to stop DMG five from appealing



Peter Young: Fired over fund scandal

By Lea Paterson

THE FIVE former directors implicated in the Peter Young fund management scandal are unlikely to appeal against findings of regulatory investigations because they fear their legal funding could dry up.

Deutsche Morgan Grenfell (DMG) has, to date, been covering the legal costs of its five former members of staff – currently believed to be in the region of £250,000 per employee. However, the five are thought to fear that DMG could stop

funding their cases if they appealed to an independent tribunal.

The five former DMG employees – Keith Percy, Graham Kane, Glynn Owen, Michael Wheatley and Paul Ebling – were dismissed from the firm in October 1996 in the wake of the Peter Young affair. They are now under investigation by Imro, the City regulator, which is expected to publish its findings shortly.

If they decide to contest Imro's findings in front of an independent tribunal and lose, the five could face costs of more than £200,000 each. The magnitude of the costs

is believed to have deterred all five men from seeking to take their cases to appeal – with the possible exception of Keith Percy, who has substantial personal wealth.

Imro's handling of the investigation has attracted criticism from some City figures, who have called the regulator heavy-handed and have expressed concerns about the spiralling costs of the inquiry.

Imro has said it is crucial that breaching regulations is seen to carry serious repercussions, a view echoed by many in the City. The regulator has denied its procedure deters innocent parties from taking cases to appeal.

In September 1996, three Morgan Grenfell funds run by Peter Young were temporarily suspended when the firm suspected "serious irregularities". DMG bailed out investors and fired Mr Young. In October that year, the firm dismissed the five employees currently under Imro investigation.

In April last year, Morgan Grenfell was fined £2m and told to pay £1m in costs. At the time, industry observers said the Imro move drew a line under the affair for Deutsche.

Since their dismissal in October 1996,

four of the five employees have not been employed directly in the financial services industry.

Keith Percy, at the time chief executive of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, has recently been appointed as an adviser to Société Générale.

Imro issued its preliminary findings against the five around six months ago. The five – who have been allowed a substantial period of time to prepare their responses – are likely to hear Imro's decision in the coming weeks, around 18 months after news of the scandal broke.

## Shareholders attack Rolls' sale to BMW

By Michael Harrison

VICKERS yesterday said it had not closed the door on a higher bid for Rolls-Royce Motor Cars from Volkswagen of Germany after coming under heavy shareholder attack for agreeing to sell the luxury car business to its arch rival BMW and returning £200m of the proceeds to investors.

VW said last night that the contract entered into by Vickers to sell Rolls to BMW for £340m "in no way altered its intention to make an increased offer to Vickers shareholders".

The increased VW offer, expected to value Rolls at £370m, is likely to be tabled in the next month. Shareholders will be asked to approve the sale of the company at an extraordinary meeting in early June.

Apart from an increased VW offer, there is also the possibility of a higher bid being submitted by a group of British Rolls-Royce enthusiasts who are trying to prevent the marque from being sold to a foreign buyer.

Defending the deal with BMW in the face of hostile questioning from shareholders at Vickers annual meeting in London's Docklands, Sir Colin Chandler, chairman, said: "We have a real deal with BMW. Anything else is hypothetical. We have no other offer on the table. If one was made that we judged to be of sufficient interest we would examine it in the interests of shareholder value."

Later he said that Vickers had not closed the door on VW, although any new bid would have to be "credible".

Earlier, a succession of shareholders lined up to criticise the proposed sale to BMW. One shareholder said she was "devastated" by the deal while another said the board had no right to take bonuses for selling "the birthright of this country".

Shareholders were not placated by the promise of a £197m payout from the proceeds of the sale and several said that Vickers should be re-investing more of the money in its existing defence and propulsion technology businesses.

Professor Douglas Longmore, a distinguished surgeon



Hot under the collar: Michael Shrimpton claimed BMW would damage the Rolls brand

Photograph: Neville Elder

and chairman of the Rolls-Royce Acquisition Consortium, said funding was being put together by a group of wealthy Rolls-Royce owners. "I do not believe UK PLC can go on

selling the family silver," he said.

Michael Shrimpton, the barrister originally behind the Acquisition Consortium, arrived at the meeting in a chauffeur-driven Bentley Turbo and proceeded to tear into the deal with BMW. He said that the sale to BMW would damage the brand and, as evidence, pointed to what he claimed was the cheap BMW air conditioning in the new Silver Seraph model.

The VW offer will include a proposal to buy both the Cosworth engine business and Rolls body pressings plant, neither of which are included in the sale to BMW. The offer is expected to value the three businesses at more than £400m.

A VW spokesman also rejected Sir Colin's continued assertion that there was no other offer tabled. "For the record he may say there is no other bid on the table but he knows perfectly well that our offer is there subject to contract."

VW's financial advisers, Morgan Stanley, and its brokers, Panmure Gordon, are understood to have made contact with Vickers' advisers, Lazards. In the last 24 hours and are due to hold further discussions this week.

One option is for shareholders to be invited to vote on two competing bids when the extraordinary meeting takes place. But VW will prefer to get a recommendation from the

Vickers board. Sir Colin said that if BMW were to be outbid there was nothing to stop it coming back with an improved offer.

In addition to the purchase price of £340m, BMW will also pay back around £20m in working capital that has been injected into Rolls since the start of the year.

BMW has promised to double production of the Rolls and Bentley marques to 6,000 a year and invest £1bn at the main Crewe manufacturing site. VW has offered to raise production to 10,000, invest up to £2bn and guarantee engines will continue to be built in the UK by acquiring Cosworth.

Outlook, page 23

## 'One in three' risk of slump this year

By Lea Paterson

THERE is a one in three chance that the UK economy will plunge into recession this year, according to a warning from one of the UK's leading research institutes.

The strength of the pound will be the key factor for the UK's economic prospects in the coming months, according to the National Institute of Economic and Social Research.

Garry Young, of the NIESR, said: "The pound is the key thing; really. Everything else [in the economy] is fairly well balanced".

In its report, the NIESR predicted: "The economy is currently on course for a soft landing; provided that the pound declines from its current highs towards a more sustainable rate of DM2.60."

Yesterday, the pound closed virtually unchanged at just under DM3.0.

The NIESR said its central forecast for GDP growth in 1998 was 1.9 per cent. It has also cut its forecast for growth next year by 0.5 per cent to 1.6 per cent. The think-tank now believes there is a one in four chance that the economy will be in recession in 1999.

The NIESR's new forecasts are considerably more pessimistic than those released by the Treasury in last month's Budget. The Treasury predicted that GDP would grow by between 2.5 and 2.9 per cent this year and 1.75 to 2.25 per cent next year.

The NIESR report coincides with a state of data suggesting the economy is slowing more sharply than many experts had predicted.

Yesterday, the Engineering Employers' Federation said that, based on the assumption that the pound's strength continues, output growth in the engineering sector would fall markedly to 0.5 per cent in 1998. Last year, output growth in the sector was 3.5 per cent.

The Nationwide said house price inflation continued to slow. Its seasonally adjusted house price index rose by 0.3 per cent in April, compared with 0.8 per cent last month.

Data from the Credit Card Research Group added to the weight of evidence pointing to a slowdown. Credit card spending increased by a year-on-year rate of 11 per cent, down from 17 per cent in February and 21 per cent in January. The research group said the decline was partially attributable to last year's base rate hikes.

## Fund managers favour US banks

By Andrew Verity

BIG acquisitions by US investment banks have "Americanised" the UK equity market within the space of just 12 months, according to the leading annual survey of the sector.

In a "striking and dramatic finding", US-owned equity houses were voted top by 47 per cent of the finance directors polled in the 1998 Reuters Survey, against 24 per cent last year.

Fund managers also favoured US equity houses in 41 per cent of cases, against 15 per cent last year.

The authors of the survey, Tempest Consultants, said: "What is so striking is the combination of the magnitude of the suddenness and the comprehensiveness of the changes."

Tempest said the findings were an indictment of the big management consultancy, which advised struggling equity houses.

Americanisation was reflected in the verdict of fund

### Analysts' top 10

- 1 SBC Warburg Dillon Read
- 2 Merrill Lynch
- 3 NatWest Securities
- 4 HSBC
- 5 Dresdner Kleinwort Benson
- 6 CS First Boston
- 7 ABN AMRO
- 8 UBS
- 9 Schroders
- 10 Salomon Smith Barney

managers on analysts. NatWest Securities, now called BT Alex. Brown International and owned by Bankers Trust International, slipped from first to third place.

Fifteen per cent of fund managers voted Merrill Lynch best, putting the US investment bank second. SBC Warburg Dillon Read was favourite for analysts with 16 per cent.

Best fund manager was awarded to Fidelity, the US giant. Best individual fund manager went to a team at Mercury Asset Management.

## Reports damn SE's electronic trading

By Lea Paterson

THE CITY yesterday delivered a damning verdict on Sets, the controversial new electronic trading system introduced last October by the Stock Exchange.

Two separate surveys of leading City firms revealed that many fund managers have deep reservations about it.

The 1998 Reuters Survey of UK Larger Companies found that "37 of the largest fund management groups (£582bn of UK equities) are damning in their detailed criticism of the new order driven trading system".

In a separate development, the preliminary findings of Tradepoint/BesTrustees research suggested fund managers were concerned about key issues of block trading, anonymity and central counterparties – third parties that guarantee trades.

Reuters said 85 per cent of

respondents found liquidity was worse under Sets, and that 90 per cent found the new system slower. Only 19 per cent said the price of bulk trades had improved. Price reductions were originally mooted as one of the key benefits of Sets.

Stephen Parker of Tempest Consultants, the company that published the Reuters Survey, said: "Fund managers feel quite strongly about all this." Mr Parker dismissed suggestions that fund managers were simply reluctant to embrace change.

Nic Stuchfield, chief executive of Tradepoint, a rival to the London Stock Exchange, said: "Tradepoint's experience indicates that investors are getting a very rough deal in Sets. This has been resoundingly endorsed not only by the research we commissioned among UK fund managers but also by careful consideration of the London Stock Exchange's own consultative document."

According to Tradepoint, fund managers would like full anonymity throughout the trading cycle, not currently the case under Sets, as well as the introduction of a central counterparty to guarantee trades.

Tradepoint said 85 per cent of respondents consider a central counterparty important or essential for order driven trading and 70 per cent said their ability to deal in size – block trading – has become worse since the introduction of Sets.

The findings come at a sensitive time for the Stock Exchange. The Exchange's consultative period on the new system ends today, and the results are expected in a month. A spokesman declined to comment on the responses to date. She said: "Our consultation exercise gives all market participants the opportunity to comment on Sets and shape the way going forward."

Market report, page 25

## Exchanges debate millennium shutdown

By Clifford German

THE WORLD'S leading stock markets are considering closing for business on the second trading day of the new millennium as part of efforts to ensure the crucial New Year changeover does not bring the financial markets to a grinding halt.

The markets are debating whether to open for business on Monday 3 January 2000 but close on the Tuesday to conduct a mini audit.

This would ensure that payments and settlement systems were working satisfactorily after the start of the new millennium. Experts fear computers which read the year by the last two digits will not be able to cope with the move from "99" to "00" and will crash, putting trillions of pounds of transactions at risk.

The proposal would be discussed at a millennium workshop in Brussels in June, the International Federation of

Stock Exchanges said yesterday.

A number of markets, including the London Stock Exchange, had been planning to close for four days over the millennium weekend, starting on Friday, 31 December 1999 to allow IT staff to complete final tests of their systems to try to eliminate all obvious risks from the millennium bug. But opening on Monday to allow for a catch-up day on Tuesday has been put forward as a practical and prudent alternative.

Stock Exchange backroom staff are also expected to come into work on Saturday 1 January to ensure that basic services, including water, electricity and telephones are actually working once the computers have switched from 99 to 00 dates.

Most national markets say that their individual systems are well advanced. The New York stock exchange claims its own house system has already been given the green light and the London market also claims to be well ahead in its preparations.

### STOCK MARKETS

Index	Close	Change	Change(%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	5833.10	26.50	0.46	6130.50	4387.80	3.46
FTSE 250	5568.90	1.00	0.02	5605.80	4384.20	2.92
FTSE 350	2917.80	10.40	0.37	2938.70	2147.80	3.36
FTSE All Share	2750.41	9.90	0.36	2881.12	2106.55	3.34
FTSE Smallcap	2533.80	5.30	0.20	2642.80	2102.10	2.99
FTSE Biotech	1412.10	1.00	0.07	1417.50	1226.20	3.23
FTSE AIM	1074.40	4.00	0.37	1095.70	985.90	1.08
Dow Jones	8942.80	41.60	0.47	9213.33	6783.02	1.58
Nikkei	15395.33	-54.52	-0.35	20810.79	14486.21	0.98
Hang Seng	10471.75	-207.46	-1.94	16820.31	7929.19	3.82
Dax	5108.48	88.81	1.75	5442.00	3379.75	1.32

### INTEREST RATES

Short sterling	UK 10 year gilt	US long bond
3m	10 yr	10 yr
UK 7.50	5.75	6.75
US 5.75	5.75	6.75
Japan 0.82	0.82	0.82
Germany 3.64	3.64	3.64

### CURRENCIES

\$/£	DM/£	¥/£
at 5pm	at 5pm	at 5pm
Dollar 1.6700	1.9300	163.00
D-Mark 2.9970	0.4600	2.8125
Yen 220.80	+0.17	208.08
E index 106.20	+0.10	100.20

### TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	2.4874	Malta (lira)	0.6330
Austria (schillings)	20.40	Mexico (nuevo peso)	12.82
Belgium (francs)	60.02	Netherlands (guilders)	3.2563
Canada (\$)	2.3987	New Zealand (\$)	2.9058
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8490	Norway (krone)	12.16
Denmark (krone)	11.15	Portugal (escudos)	205.49
Finland (markka)	8.9790	Saudi Arabia (riyal)	8.0712
France (francs)	9.7397	Singapore (\$)	2.5312
Germany (marks)	2.9164	Spain (pesetas)	246.28
Greece (drachmas)	308.58	South Africa (rand)	8.1007
Hong Kong (\$)	12.52	Sweden (krona)	12.84
Ireland (pounds)	1.1479	Switzerland (francs)	2.4272
Israel (shekels)	6.7666	Thailand (bahts)	58.17
Italy (lira)	2.885	Turkey (lira)	398.776
Japan (yen)	218.00	USA (\$)	1.5277
Malaysia (ringgits)	5.9843		

Rates for information purposes only  
Source: Thomas Cook







THE INVESTMENT COLUMN  
EDITED BY ANDREW YATESCash boost at  
Chiroscience

IF NOTHING ELSE the whole sorry episode of British Biotech and the future over the departure of Dr Andrew Millar, its clinical research director, has reminded investors what a lottery the biotech sector really is.

So Chiroscience gave the battered sector a much needed morale boost yesterday when it announced that its flagship drug should be on the market in Europe by the end of the year and in the US six months later. Chiroscience has teamed up with Zeneca to push through the development of Chirocaine, a long-acting local anaesthetic. If it gets past the final regulatory hurdles, Chirocaine will make at least £200m from the deal over the next 10 years.

The Zeneca tie-up has also solved Chiroscience's money worries for the time being, immediately swelling its coffers by £15m and leaving it with more than £40m in the bank. With a future "cash burn" of less than £2m a month it, in effect, removes the need to call on shareholders for more money.

ChiroTech, which supplies other drug companies with intermediate chemicals, has also sealed a £25m deal with Glaxo Wellcome to supply ingredients for its new AIDS treatment. The deal should ensure ChiroTech continues to produce a steady rise in profits. More importantly, it will increase the value of the business to perhaps £100m when Chiroscience decides to sell or list it.

The good news helped Chiroscience's shares jump 20.5p to 331.5p yesterday. But it is not enough to justify Chiroscience's market capitalisation, which has risen to £265m. That valuation relies on the group's product pipeline and here Chiroscience carries the same safety warning as at other biotech stocks. But at least it looks on a more solid financial footing than most and the group forecasts it will break into the black by 2001. And investors can take comfort from the fact that Chiroscience's biggest projects are being backed by the industry heavyweights.

Like British Biotech and most of the drugs industry it is chasing the holy grail of a cancer drug. Unlike British Biotech, early tests suggest its own treatment has no side effects and Chiroscience has enlisted the support of Bristol-Myers Squibb.

For the biotech buff Chiroscience looks a safer bet than most.

Shake-up at  
Grampian

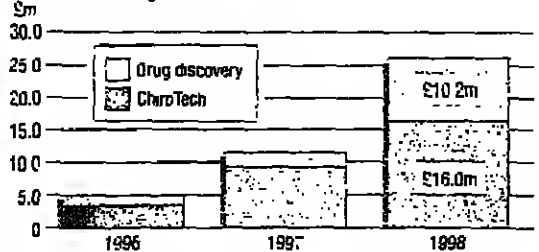
BILL Hughes, Grampian's chairman, and his fellow directors must have had extra helpings of Scotch porridge judging by the sudden speed with which

## Chiroscience: At a glance

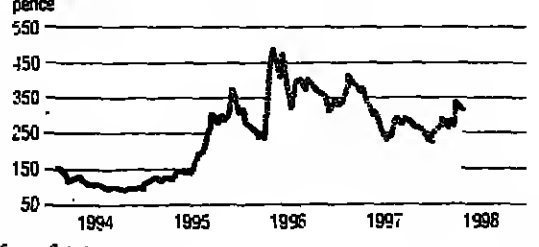
Market value: £365m, share price 331.5p (+20.5p)

Five-year record	94	95	96	97	98
Turnover (£m)	1.9	1.7	5.0	11.5	26.2
Pre-tax profits (£m)	-4.3	-9.2	-11.6	-19.3	-23.3
Earnings per share (p)	-11.9	-13.6	-16.8	-22.5	-21.6
Dividends per share (p)					

## Revenues by business



## Share price



they have shaken up the sleepy conglomerate.

After years of trundling along without doing much, Grampian has embarked on a frenetic round of corporate activity, transforming itself into a retailer.

The pharmaceuticals division has been sold for £60m and sports goods and knitwear divisions are also on the chopping block.

Grampian's main business is now the 245 strong Edinburgh Woollen Mill chain. Despite new openings it had a far from cosy year, with like-for-like sales of traditional Scottish woolies falling in recent months due to warmer weather and the strong pound, which deterred tourist spending.

But there is still plenty of growth to come from the rapid expansion of the business, with 100 new stores planned over the next three years.

Its other main business, the transport operation, remains a steady earner. It is expanding into north-west England, creating extra capacity and increased utilisation, especially in the niche business of carrying full whisky bottles south to England as well as returning empties back to Scotland.

Overall turnover fell in the 12 months to the end of January and profit before tax was only 3 per cent higher at £20m. But underlying operating profits on the businesses they had left rose 13 per cent.

Analysts have upgraded forecasts for the current year to £22.2m followed by £25.8m in the following 12 months, putting the shares on a price-earnings ratio of 9 falling to less than 8.

The shares gained 5p to 131.5p yesterday and are well below their 1997 peak. A yield of 6.6 per cent also looks attractive. Good value.

Profit swings  
at Hiscox

HISCOX provided another good example yesterday of how the vagaries of the Lloyd's of London market can play havoc with profits. Last year its underwriting profits, which related to 1995 at Lloyd's, jumped from £5.2m to £14.5m.

Premiums were so high and claims so low that Bronck Masojada, the group's managing director, describes it as "nirvana for insurers, something that happens once in a generation". But new players flooded the market in 1996. Capacity grew and rates tumbled.

Lloyd's has predicted underwriting profits for the whole market will fall from £1bn for 1995 to £600m for 1996, leaving a hole in Hiscox's profits this year. The group is braced for a fall in underwriting earnings to £9.5m. Its reputation in the City also suffered a setback two months ago after it sacked an employee for underwriting a \$150m credit risk business without authority.

Hiscox hopes to reduce its dependence on Lloyd's by developing its general insurance business. So far, the strategy has not gone to plan and the division lost £4.2m last year. But management have been replaced, staff sacked, business outsourced and the company is shifting to high-margin areas, such as household insurance and professional indemnity, which should be sufficient to turn the operation around.

Charterhouse Tilney predicts 1998 profits of £18.5m. Following a dip of 7.5p to 167.5p yesterday, that puts Hiscox on a forward multiple of 18.5. Investors should ignore the short-term wobbles. With peers on forward multiples of 30 plus, it could be one to tuck away.

S&N puts £21m  
into mega-pubs

By Andrew Yates

THE STRENGTH of the pub industry's commitment to themed inns was demonstrated again yesterday by Scottish & Newcastle. The pub and leisure giant unveiled plans to invest another £21.5m in its Rat & Parrot chain, taking it from 43 to 70 outlets over the next 12 months. The scheme will create 1,300 new jobs.

S&N is creating a new breed of mega-pubs, covering at least 4,000 square feet each. As part of this plan it is opening the largest bar in the UK in Leeds this week.

S&N is hoping to cash in on the growing number of women who come to its Rat & Parrot outlets by installing a "coffee culture" throughout the chain. It was the first pub to offer coffee bars and pastries to customers in an effort to attract trade throughout the day.

It also targeted women by banishing the traditional image of a dark and dingy pub and replacing it with light and airy surroundings at most of its

outlets. S&N plans to have nearly 200 Rat & Parrots by the end of 2001 in major cities throughout the UK.

Overall S&N is pumping £200m into its branded pub estate this year, on brands such as Chef & Brewer and John Barras, its community pub chain.

Within four years it forecasts that 65 per cent of its managed pub estate will be made up of branded pubs.

The themed pub market has exploded over the last few years, with the big pub groups pouring billions of pounds into the industry to establish and promote their own brands. Competitors such as Allied Domecq, Bass and Whitbread have already announced their own huge investment programmes, which will create thousands of new jobs.

The creation of the new jobs comes just 24 hours after S&N announced its was cutting 300 jobs at its brewing arm following a radical overhaul of the business designed to cope with problems associated with the growing dominance of inde-

pendent pub chains who are demanding cheaper beer.

Miles Robottom, Rat and Parrot brand manager, said: "Rat & Parrots benefit from their town and city centre locations and have proven appeal to a wide audience at all times of the day and will adapt extremely well to large sites. It is an extremely exciting time for the brand."

However, not everybody is convinced that the themed pub market can continue to grow at such a pace. Analysts point out that there are already signs that some pub brands are showing signs of flagging under the intense competition.

Irish pubs, for example, have lost their sparkle, according to industry observers. Sales in these outlets are falling and pub groups are reining back on new openings or re-branding their outlets, industry observers say.

The huge number of themed outlets springing up around the country has also raised concerns that the traditional local pub faces an uphill struggle to survive.



Themed pubs: S&amp;N plans a chain of 200 Rat &amp; Parrots

Schroders sticks with plans  
to remain independent

INVESTMENT bank Schroders reiterated to shareholders yesterday that it wanted to stay independent. In a statement prepared for the company's shareholders' meeting, Win Bischoff, Schroders chairman, noted recent press comment on consolidation in the financial services industry, but said: "Schroders has for many years pursued a successful policy of independence focused on client service and shareholder value. Management and the Schroder family together remain confident of the view that, as in the past, the interests of clients, staff and shareholders are best served by a continuation of this policy of independence."

## Hemingway bids for Olives

HEMINGWAY Properties yesterday announced a £28.6m recommended offer for Olives Property. The offer of eight new Hemingway shares for every nine Olives shares values each Olives share at 42.5p, a 29 per cent premium over the 33p closing price on Tuesday. A full cash alternative of 40p per share is available. Hemingway, which has a portfolio of commercial property in London and the UK, said it had received undertakings to accept the offer representing 34 per cent of Olives' share capital.

## Reed warns on strong pound

REED International said yesterday that current trading conditions were little changed since it announced its annual results on 12 March. "We expect good underlying growth across our businesses," the chairman, Nigel Stapleton, told the company's annual meeting. The Anglo-Dutch publisher and information provider said a stronger pound and an increase in investment in new products and services will have an unfavourable impact on the first half comparison with 1997.

## Nat Power invests in Malaysia

ELECTRICITY generator National Power is to invest \$125m (£75m) in the Malaysian power company Malakoff. National Power said it would buy a stake representing about 15 per cent of the enlarged share capital of Malakoff. National Power, which earlier entered an alliance as Malakoff's exclusive foreign partner and investor in future Malaysian energy projects, had conditionally agreed to buy the shares from Malaysian Resources Corp.

## Premier buys Dutch estate

PROPERTY group Premier Land is buying six properties in Amsterdam for £19.4m and announced it was changing its name to Probus Estates. The company said the purchases completes its year-long restructuring programme and was "consistent with the stated strategy of pursuing investment opportunities with sound growth potential and positive cash flow". It said the properties, which have a net annual rental income of about £1.7m and consist of 10 office and warehouse properties and the Magna Plaza shopping centre in Amsterdam.

## 'Independent' winner

NIC Cicuti, the personal finance editor of *The Independent*, has been named best national/consumer writer of the year in the Scottish Life Pension Awards. The award is the latest in a series for Nic: recently, he won the personal finance journalist of the year award, sponsored by Bradford & Bingley Building Society. The award marked a rare "double" for *The Independent*: its personal finance section was also voted the best among all national newspapers. A few weeks earlier, Nic was also named life insurance and pensions writer of the year by the Association of British Insurers, the industry trade body.

## Royal Bank of Scotland

FOLLOWING a story in yesterday's *Independent*, The Royal Bank of Scotland has asked us to make clear that any implication in a statement from People's Bank UK of mounting bad debts and poor profitability in RBS Atlanta is wrong and incorrect. In fact, Advanta has been one of the fastest-growing credit card businesses in the UK. RBS Advanta has moved into profit and continues to grow strongly.

## COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover	Pre-tax	EPS	Dividend
At London Int. (0)	21.35m (11.86m)	1.35m (1.12m)	0.20 (0.18)	3.0p (2.5p)
Atlantic Capital (F)	2.62m (1.53m)	0.50m (0.19m)	0.007 (0.003)	0.000
Deep Sea Leisure (F)	2.47m (2.25m)	0.42m (0.195m)	6.85p (3.11p)	0.0
Grampian Holdings (F)	244.28m (262.03m)	20.0m (19.34m)	12.80p (11.88p)	7.20p (6.56p)
Hemingway Props (F)	1.1	7.9m (8.46m)	3.21p (2.95p)	0.6p (0.55p)
Hiscox (F)	-	16.39m (14.34m)	8.2p (11.6p)	3.2p (3.0p)
Park Estate (F)	1.07m (0.95m)	0.507m (0.465m)	15.55p (14.88p)	10.0p (9.1p)
Ryan Hobbies (F)	428.45m (427.34m)	115.02m (114.04m)	6.85p (5.15p)	2.25p (2.0p)
Stash (F)	49.04m (35.43m)	0.668m (1.34m)	8.54p (16.14p)	4.25p (4.0p)
VTR (0)	13.00m (8.51m)	1.006m (0.650m)	18.95p (23.4p)	1.75p (1.75p)
(F) - Final (0) - Interim	EPS is pre-exceptionals	* Dividend to be paid as a PD		

Halifax hits out at  
Midshires 'confusion'

By Michael Harrison

HALIFAX yesterday launched a scathing attack on the board of Birmingham Midshires for a "highly confusing strategy" which has left members and staff in limbo over the building society's plans to become a bank.

Halifax, which itself converted last year, said it was "very frustrated" with the approach of the Midshires board following its decision seven weeks ago to renege on a takeover by Royal Bank of Scotland.

Dick Spellman, director of distribution at Halifax, said: "We are extremely disappointed that after seven weeks the board are no nearer to sorting this out."

The decision to pull out of the £630m offer from RBS followed a £780m offer from Halifax. The Midshires board was widely expected to take up the Halifax offer.

Speaking after watching the

Midshires' annual general meeting, Mr Spellman said: "We were totally confused by what they put forward as their strategy. They went back and forth, saying they were looking at just about anything you can think of."

"Having ostensibly gone for this, to be saying now they can examine just about every option under the table is highly frustrating for members."

Members at a packed agm in Birmingham were told the board had not ruled out any options, including remaining as a mutual. Directors said they were neutral on the issue.

The board is barred from discussing bids with other parties under an exclusivity clause drawn up last August as part of the RBS bid. According to RBS, the clause was insisted on by Mike Jackson, chief executive of Midshires.

RBS has indicated it would expect compensation - likely to

run into the tens of millions - to release Midshires from the clause. The clause stays in force until the end of 1998.

John Leighfield, chairman of Midshires, said the board had been trying to contact RBS, "all day, every day" with detailed proposals to release them from the agreement.

"We had hoped to be able to report the result of these negotiations with RBS to members at the agm, but unfortunately have not yet concluded our discussions. We will notify members of their response as soon as is practicable after we receive it."

Directors faced a barrage of questions from members disappointed with their handling of flotation plans. One member went so far as to call for Mr Leighfield to resign.

David McKague, a member of Save Our Building Societies, which is campaigning against a takeover, said: "The level of feeling there was very considerable."

US banks move in on new  
sites in the City of London

LONDON's status as one of the world's leading financial centres received a double boost yesterday from the news that two US institutions are to invest in new sites in the City.

State Street Corp said it had received Bank of England approval to establish State Street Bank Europe (SSBE). SSBE will be headquartered in London and is likely to lead to the creation of 100 jobs. Under the provisions of European single market legislation, SSBE will provide a range of integrated global custody, treasury, investment management, portfolio administration, broker and accounting services to institutional investors.

State Street Corp is the world's leading specialist in service institutional investors and has \$4.4 trillion (£2.6 trillion) under custody and \$458bn under management.

David A Spina, SSBE's chairman, said: "The lower interest-rate environment created by the euro, coupled with pension reform and the expanded interest in equity investing, will create demand for the products and services in which we are specialist, including quantitative investment management, trade execution and daily pricing."

State Street Corp has been in Europe for 25 years and currently services institutional investors in 12 European

countries from eight locations. Meanwhile, Donaldson, Luffkin & Jenrette (DLJ) is poised to take over a six-storey building near its existing London HQ for equity sales and trading.

DLJ expects to sign a lease within a fortnight for 100,000 sq ft at 110 Old Broad Street, which will house, along with the equities business, taxable fixed income group and investment services.

The move will more than double DLJ's London operations. The expansion comes as DLJ builds a European equities business from scratch. The core of the international team has been hired.

## Dewhurst directors cash in

By Nigel Cope

DIRECTORS of Dewhurst, the Marks & Spencer clothing supplier, cashed in share options worth more than £2m last year, according to the company's latest annual report.

The biggest beneficiary was David Witt, the chief executive, with a total of £1.4m including salary and options. He exercised his "shadow" options on 350,000 during the year, netting £595,000. This was in addition to £343,000 gain on share options and his £445,000 salary. Michael

Terry, another director, exercised options worth £512,000 in addition to his total pay of £186,000. Three other directors, Brian Farrow, John Haley and Robin Horsell, cashed in options of £150,000 to £222,000 each.

Dewhurst's profits increased by 19 per cent last year to £34.5m. The shares have risen from 195.5p a year ago to 231p, unchanged yesterday.

Meanwhile, corporate governance specialists expressed concern about directors' contracts at LucasVarity, the engineering group. They have raised

questions about the lump-sum payments that would be due in the event of a takeover. Victor Rice, the chief executive, who was paid £631,274 last year, would be in line for a payment equivalent to 4.4 times salary. Neil Arnold, the finance director, and Tony Gilroy, a director, would be in line for payments of 3.35 times salary (£399,856 and £284,139 respectively).

The company said the payments would not be renewed after the 1999 in the case of Mr Rice and after 2001 in the case of the other two directors.

## Summary of Accounts

for the year ended 31 December 1997

Profit and Loss Account	1997	1996	Balance Sheet	1997	1996
	£m	£m		£m	£m
Turnover	30.1	28.0	Fixed assets:		
Operating expenditure	29.0	27.1	Tangible assets	25.4	24.2
Operating profit	1.1	0.9	Investments:		
Net interest	0.9	0.7	Port of London	9.0	13.4
Dividends receivable	8.9	4.4	Properties Ltd Group	9.6	9.5
Repayment of Government grants	(8.8)	(4.4)	Stock redemption fund	44.0	47.1
Profit on ordinary activities, before taxation	2.1	1.6	Net current asset	13.4	13.0
Taxation	(0.3)	-		57.4	60.1
Profit for the year	1.8	1.6	Creditors:		
Transfer to stock redemption fund	(0.1)	(0.1)	Amounts falling due after more than one year:		
Transfer to profit and loss account reserve	1.7	1.5	Loans	10.2	10.2
			Other amounts	2.7	2.8
			Reserves:		
			Revaluation	9.0	13.4
			Stock redemption fund	9.6	9.5
			Profit and loss	25.9	24.2
				57.4	60.1

## Cash Flow Statement

(Decrease/increase in cash)

	1997	1996
	£m	£m
	(2.3)	2.1

SIR BRIAN SHAW  
ChairmanD.J. JEFFERY  
Chief ExecutiveG.P. ELLIS  
Chief Financial Officer

Published by the Port of London Authority under Section 8(3) of the Port of London Act 1968

The above is an extract from the published Accounts of the Port of London Authority for the year ended 31 December 1997 which have been delivered to The Secretary of State for Transport. G.E. Ennals, Secretary.

COPIES OF THE REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 1997 CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT, PORT OF LONDON AUTHORITY, DEVON HOUSE, 50-51 BATH STREET, LONDON EC4A 3DF. TEL: 020 7493 1500.







JOHN  
WILLCOCK

[illegible]



## Golf

LIVE COMMENTARIES		RESULTS
RED CAR	971	981
BRIGHTON	972	982
WOLVERHAMPTON	973	983

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said: "That was my first win since Weather Wise at Hereford on Boxing Day. By this time last year I'd had 10 two-year-old winners. It has made me feel like packing up."

Bill Turner breathed a sigh of relief in Plumpton yesterday when he took the finale at 25-1. A year-old had scored by nine in Millmount, the Sherbourn said. "That was my first Weather Wise at Hereford Day. By this time last year two-year-olds winners. It has feel like packing up."

LIVE COMMENTARIES		RESULTS
RED CAR	971	981
BRIGHTON	972	982
WOLVERHAMPTON	973	983

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# Doherty going about his business quietly

## Snooker

By Guy Hodgson  
at The Crucible, Sheffield

WHILE the attention has been set unwaveringly on Jimmy White for 10 days, Ken Doherty has been quietly making progress at the Embassy World Championship. The Whirlwind was blowing at the front yesterday but nipping into the semi-finals through the back door was the reigning champion.

Doherty defeated Matthew Stevens 13-10 and is just two matches away from retaining his

title which, if it sounds run of the mill, was beyond Steve Davis and Stephen Hendry when they first became world champions. You never know, he might get some publicity.

Not that he was craving it yesterday. "I prefer it that way to be honest," he said. "I've got to the semi-finals without too much notice and it suits me. I'm doing my own thing like I did last year and, at the end of the day, the tournament is more important than the media attention."

"Jimmy has done wonders for the tournament. It's put snooker back up there where it

was in the Eighties and early Nineties when it was at its peak. When he plays well, it's good for the sport."

Doherty was quiet yesterday, hushed by the dogged persistence of the 20-year-old Stevens who tugged him back every time Doherty tried to make a break for the line. The score was like two snails inching up the table: 9-7, 9-8, 10-8, 10-9 until the Irishman finally put some daylight between himself and his follower with breaks of 53 and 70 in the 20th and 21st frames.

Even then Stevens, who was in his first quarter-final, managed to drag the score to 12-10

before Doherty finally squashed this irritant with a 73. "Ken didn't really play that well," Stevens, from Carmarthen, said. "but he did enough. I don't think I put enough pressure on him."

Thanks to White's all embracing presence there has not been that much pressure on John Higgins either, which is a surprise because he might displace Hendry at the top of the world rankings. If he takes the trophy next Monday he will end eight years of Hendry supremacy and so far there is little reason to believe he will be far away.

Higgins, who has won three tournaments this year, beat the 1991 champion John Parrott 13-11 yesterday to get past the quarter-finals at the Crucible for the first time. He is playing well and if his opponent had not also been firing on all cylinders we might have witnessed a rout yesterday.

Level at 8-8 overnight, Higgins suggested he had ordered rocket fuel instead of eggs and bacon because he came flying out of the traps. He had finished the previous evening with his 100th century in competition and within 22 minutes of the 10am restart he had recorded

two more, clearances of 143 and 139.

Which had the statisticians moving almost as quickly as the white ball as his hat-trick of 100s was the first in the history of the World Championship and took the total for this tournament to 49, which is also a record. You would have expected the 22-year-old to be excited but when he got to his chair he had the audacity to yawn. The audacity of youth.

Parrott, who had every reason to be dismayed, turned to his opponent and asked: "Are you allowed to have those before breakfast?" and, for a

while, Higgins seemed a little unsure of himself. "I couldn't get my head right," he said. "I was delighted with the two breaks but I was all over the place. It was very tough, I'm still shaking."

Parrott won the next three frames and led 11-10 before Higgins pulled himself together. "He'll take a fair bit of stopping," Parrott said. "Ken Doherty's going along quietly, minding his own business, but I dived John before the start of the tournament and I've seen nothing to change that."

As for White, his 7-1 deficit overnight suggested his tour-

namant was over although he tried manfully to drag himself back into his match yesterday. Ronnie O'Sullivan played like the quarter-final was over because he had his most fiftful session of the championships so far, wasting chances, going for unlikely shots and, in his own words "losing it".

For most of the afternoon he sat in his chair smiling ironically at his own carelessness, but he just got away with it thanks to a break of 55 in the final frame of the session, making the score 10-6 when it could easily have been 9-7. He required only three frames last night.

# Noades takes on manager's role at Palace

## Football

By Rupert Metcalf

THE Crystal Palace chairman, Ron Noades, yesterday took over control of first-team affairs at the south London club until the end of the season - after Attilio Lombardo stepped down from his position as player-manager.

Noades and the coach, Ray Lewington, will pick the team for Palace's last three games. Monday's 3-0 home defeat to Manchester United confirmed their relegation to the Nationwide League.

Lombardo was not Noades' choice as manager when Steve Coppell gave up control. The former Italian international has been criticised by the chairman for his team selection, but he had been expected to stay on until the end of the season.

However, Lombardo said that he felt there was "no point in him carrying on in the management role" following relegation, and he would now revert to playing only.

Noades' long-term position at the club is by no means clear. A computer tycoon, Mark Goldberg, is still trying to complete his planned £50m takeover. The former England coach, Terry Venables, has been lined up by Goldberg to take

charge of team affairs next season, but Noades is known to have wanted Gerry Francis, the former Tottenham manager, in the Selhurst hot seat.

The temporary appointment of Lombardo, who speaks little English, with Tomas Brodin, the Swedish international, as his interpreter had made Palace something of a laughing-stock. Now the club's fans must be hoping for a more settled summer and subsequent season in the First Division but, with so much uncertainty hovering over Selhurst Park, they may be out of luck.

A statement issued by the Palace board read: "Palace wish to make it clear that they appreciate Lombardo's efforts to avoid relegation and thank him for stepping into the breach. Brian Sparrow will continue in his coaching role and all other coaching positions within the club remain the same. The team have three Premiership fixtures left. Noades and Lewington will jointly pick the team for these games."

Paul Jewell is set to be named as Bradford City's manager on a two-year contract.

Jewell has been in charge since Chris Kamara was sacked in January, but the First Division club have since been linked with several other potential managers, including Neil

Warnock, the original choice of their chairman, Geoffrey Richmond. Warnock is now expected to sign on at Oldham Athletic for another year.

Benfica have been ordered by Fifa to pay Manchester United the missing transfer fee for Karel Poborsky inside 30 days. Football's world ruling body intervened because United have still not received any of the £2m they agreed with the Portuguese club for the Czech international at the end of December.

Trevor Francis, currently working on a one-year roll-over contract as the manager of Birmingham City, is seeking a new long-term deal.

Stoke City have launched the biggest security operation in the club's history for Sunday's First Division relegation showdown against Manchester City. There are fears that as many as 3,000 fans from Molineux Road have bought tickets in areas reserved for home supporters.

Thousands of England and Scotland fans will be able to watch their country's World Cup games via two big screens to be sited in London and Glasgow. The Nescafé-sponsored "United in the Park" events will be taking place at Alexandra Palace in London and Bellahouston Park, Glasgow, with both venues able to accommodate up to 20,000 spectators.



I want to be elected: Lennart Johansson, the president of Uefa, in Dublin yesterday at a congress of European football's governing body. Johansson is hoping to become the next president of Fifa, the game's world governing body. The election takes place in June. Photograph: John Cogill/WAP

# Bassett to add depth to Forest's quality

THE Nottingham Forest manager, Dave Bassett, whose side clinched a return to the Premiership without kicking a ball, believes they have the quality to survive in the top flight.

Sunderland's 3-0 defeat at Ipswich on Tuesday ensured that Forest will go back up after one season in the First Division, the seventh time Bassett has led a side to promotion.

The former Wimbledon manager learned that Forest had gone up while commenting for television of Tranmere's home encounter with Sheffield United.

"It's a great feeling but this has been a unique season in that we would have normally been celebrating some time ago after getting to the 90-point mark," he said. "I can't remember another year like this where four teams [Forest, Sunderland, Middlesbrough, Charlton] have had to get 87 to 90 points just to have a chance of going up."

"The form of the four teams in the latter part of the season has been outstanding and no-one has been able to ease up and it has been quite a tense period. I was looking at a two-point game average and to be honest I thought that we would cruise it. For it to go to the last week of the season is unbelievable."

"It's been a long hard season and there has been that expectancy level at Forest to go up because they feel they should be a Premiership club."

"But we are there at last and everyone will be looking for-

ward with great relish to next season."

"But before then we want to finish this season in style at West Brom on Saturday and the players want to go up as champions."

Bassett, who was promoted four times with Wimbledon and twice with Sheffield United, will meet the Forest board on Friday to find out what funds will be made available to him to bring new blood into the City Ground.

But he said: "I think we have the nucleus of a side that can compete in the Premiership. People like Scot Gemmill, Steve Chettle, Colin Cooper, etc, have shown in previous years that they can compete at the top level."

"Things went off the rails last season when the club went down but in fairness there were some decent players here who were just going through a difficult time."

"With the new ones that have come in and put pressure on - like Dave Beasant, Pierre Van Hooijdonk, Andy Johnson and Geoff Thomas - we've had a decent side."

"We have got a certain amount of quality in the team but I still want a bit more strength and competition. In the Premier League you have got to have a big squad."

"I think that was highlighted in February when we had a whole midfield missing in Steve Stone, Ian Woan, Chris Bart-Williams and Scot Gemmill. You do need that depth."

"But I have to say I thought the Forest team that started the season was better than the Crystal Palace team I was involved with last season which eventually got promoted. That's not being disrespectful to Palace but I think there are better quality players in this side."

Leeds United's record signing, Lee Sharpe, yesterday ruled out a dream return to the side and a confrontation with his former club, Manchester United, on Monday.

The £4.5m winger has missed the entire season after sustaining a knee ligament injury last summer and there were hopes he could be fit for the match at Old Trafford.

But Sharpe now has his sights set on being ready for Leeds' pre-season campaign, despite a couple of reserve team appearances under his belt as he heads along the road to a full recovery.

He said: "I have ruled out even a place on the bench against Manchester United. It will be disappointing, as it has been to miss all the other matches this season."

"Maybe I could have rushed back but there was no point in taking any risks. I have just got to make sure that I am fit for the pre-season games, then I will be flying for the start of next season."

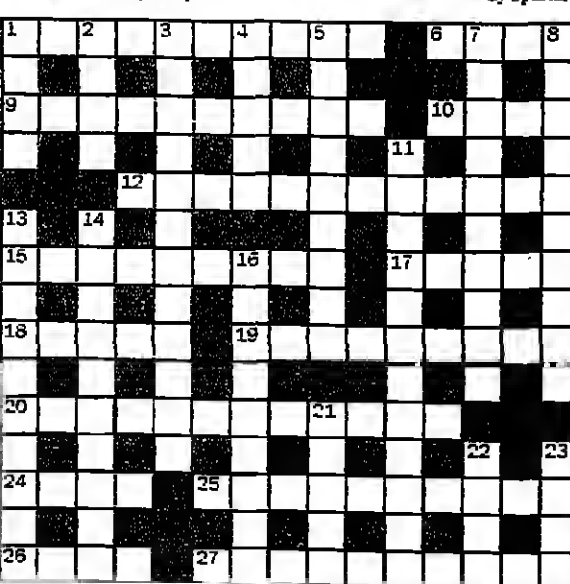
More football, page 28

## THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3596, Thursday 30 April

By Spurlin

Wednesday's solution



CATINP RINGSTON  
ARMEN RRI  
STONERWALL ALARM  
HURLOIMR  
FRANCHISE CALYPSO  
L G C E  
OPERA PIPESUEM  
N R A W  
WHATEAR OSAKA  
A O U E  
NEWGATE NOMADIC  
Y D S N A I A  
HEART CRICKETER  
E R E S E O A  
MISTIFRIS DIRIVOT

### ACROSS

- Staff signature required (6,4)
- Short delivery capturing one's wicket? Not entirely (4)
- Spanish aunt wearing fashionable fur is very greedy (10)
- Lead sometimes is, or iron (4)
- Opener's autograph on the score sheet? (3,9)
- Bustling - not Lemnos, it's sleepy (9)
- Ring seen in department store (5)
- American and European mostly get on together (5)
- Shy site foreman is finally working to get building up (9)

### DOWN

- Having dog takes time and trouble (4)
- Part of Chelsea not mentioned hitherto (4)
- Dusk accessory that's usually dear (6,6)
- Men covering for inferior members in western films? (5)

- Graceful enrolled nurse repeatedly comes around to give information (9)
- Sour apple stewed with a dash of lemon - it's so versatile (3,7)
- Noted writer? (10)
- It's tough to take responsibility - you'll find that, by the way (4,8)
- Sleep slope where ten campers come to grief (10)
- Shows he can manage (10)
- Tranquil seat of learning? (4,5)
- Flowering tree - phone up about one (5)
- Game supplied by well-known Venetian merchant (4)
- Intelligence shown by bridge players (4)